

NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES AND OTHER MOLECULES ASSOCIATED WITH PLANTS

Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to provisional application Serial No. 60/100,674, filed September 16, 1998, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Field of the Invention

The present invention is in the field of plant biochemistry. More specifically the invention relates to nucleic acid molecules that encode proteins and fragments of proteins produced in plant cells, in particular, soybean plants. The invention also relates to proteins and fragments of proteins so encoded and antibodies capable of binding the proteins. The invention also relates to methods of using the nucleic acid molecules, proteins and fragments of proteins.

Background of the Invention

I. EXPRESSED SEQUENCE TAG NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES

Expressed sequence tags, or ESTs, are short sequences of randomly selected clones from a cDNA (or complementary DNA) library which are representative of the cDNA inserts of these randomly selected clones. McCombie, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 1:124-130 (1992); Kurata, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 8: 365-372 (1994); Okubo, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 2: 173-179 (1992), all of which references are incorporated herein in their entirety.

Using conventional methodologies, cDNA libraries can be constructed from the mRNA (messenger RNA) of a given tissue or organism using poly dT primers and reverse transcriptase (Efstratiadis, *et al.*, *Cell* 7:279-288 (1976), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Higuchi, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 73:3146-

3150 (1976), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Maniatis, *et al.*, *Cell* 8:163 (1976) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Land, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 9:2251-2266 (1981), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Okayama, *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 2:161-170 (1982), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Gubler, *et al.*, *Gene* 25:263 (1983), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Several methods may be employed to obtain full-length cDNA constructs. For example, terminal transferase can be used to add homopolymeric tails of dC residues to the free 3' hydroxyl groups (Land, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 9:2251-2266 (1981), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). This tail can then be hybridized by a poly dG oligo which can act as a primer for the synthesis of full length second strand cDNA. Okayama and Berg, report a method for obtaining full length cDNA constructs. This method has been simplified by using synthetic primer-adapters that have both homopolymeric tails for priming the synthesis of the first and second strands and restriction sites for cloning into plasmids (Coleclough, *et al.*, *Gene* 34:305-314 (1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and bacteriophage vectors (Krawinkel, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 14:1913 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; and Han, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 15:6304 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

These strategies have been coupled with additional strategies for isolating rare mRNA populations. For example, a typical mammalian cell contains between 10,000 and 30,000 different mRNA sequences. Davidson, *Gene Activity in Early Development*, 2nd ed., Academic Press, New York (1976). The number of clones required to achieve a given probability that a low-abundance mRNA will be present in a cDNA library is $N = (\ln(1-P))/(\ln(1-1/n))$ where N is the number of clones required, P is the probability desired, and 1/n is the fractional proportion of the total mRNA that is represented by a single rare mRNA. (Sambrook, *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd ed.,

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.).

A method to enrich preparations of mRNA for sequences of interest is to fractionate by size. One such method is to fractionate by electrophoresis through an agarose gel (Pennica, *et al.*, *Nature* 301:214-221 (1983), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Another such method employs sucrose gradient centrifugation in the presence of an agent, such as methylmercuric hydroxide, that denatures secondary structure in RNA (Schweinfest, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 79:4997-5000 (1982), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

A frequently adopted method is to construct equalized or normalized cDNA libraries (Ko, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 18:5705-5711 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Patanjali, S. R. *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88:1943-1947 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Typically, the cDNA population is normalized by subtractive hybridization. Schmid, *et al.*, *J. Neurochem.* 48:307-312 (1987) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Fagnoli, *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* 187:364-373 (1990) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Travis, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 85:1696-1700 (1988) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Kato, *Eur. J. Neurosci.* 2:704 (1990); and Schweinfest, *et al.*, *Genet. Anal. Tech. Appl.* 7:64 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Subtraction represents another method for reducing the population of certain sequences in the cDNA library. Swaroop, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 19:1954 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

ESTs can be sequenced by a number of methods. Two basic methods may be used for DNA sequencing, the chain termination method of Sanger *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 74: 5463-5467 (1977), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference and the chemical degradation method of Maxam and Gilbert, *Proc. Nat. Acad.*

Sci. (U.S.A.) 74: 560-564 (1977), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Automation and advances in technology such as the replacement of radioisotopes with fluorescence-based sequencing have reduced the effort required to sequence DNA (Craxton, *Methods*, 2: 20-26 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Ju *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 92: 4347-4351 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Tabor and Richardson, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 92: 6339-6343 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Automated sequencers are available from, for example, Pharmacia Biotech, Inc., Piscataway, New Jersey (Pharmacia ALF), LI-COR, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska (LI-COR 4,000) and Millipore, Bedford, Massachusetts (Millipore BaseStation).

In addition, advances in capillary gel electrophoresis have also reduced the effort required to sequence DNA and such advances provide a rapid high resolution approach for sequencing DNA samples (Swerdlow and Gesteland, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 18:1415-1419 (1990); Smith, *Nature* 349:812-813 (1991); Luckey *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.* 218:154-172 (1993); Lu *et al.*, *J. Chromatog. A.* 680:497-501 (1994); Carson *et al.*, *Anal. Chem.* 65:3219-3226 (1993); Huang *et al.*, *Anal. Chem.* 64:2149-2154 (1992); Kheterpal *et al.*, *Electrophoresis* 17:1852-1859 (1996); Quesada and Zhang, *Electrophoresis* 17:1841-1851 (1996); Baba, *Yakugaku Zasshi* 117:265-281 (1997), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

ESTs longer than 150 bases have been found to be useful for similarity searches and mapping. (Adams, *et al.*, *Science* 252:1651-1656 (1991), herein incorporated by reference.) EST sequences normally range from 150-450 bases. This is the length of sequence information that is routinely and reliably generated using single run sequence data. Typically, only single run sequence data is obtained from the cDNA library, Adams, *et al.*, *Science* 252:1651-1656 (1991). Automated single run sequencing typically

results in an approximately 2-3% error or base ambiguity rate. (Boguski, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 4:332-333 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

EST databases have been constructed or partially constructed from, for example, *C. elegans* (McCombie, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics* 1:124-131 (1992), human liver cell line HepG2 (Okubo, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics* 2:173-179 (1992)), human brain RNA (Adams, *et al.*, *Science* 252:1651-1656 (1991); Adams, *et al.*, *Nature* 355:632-635 (1992)), *Arabidopsis*, (Newman, *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 106:1241-1255 (1994)); and rice (Kurata, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics* 8:365-372 (1994)).

II. SEQUENCE COMPARISONS

A characteristic feature of a protein or DNA sequence is that it can be compared with other known protein or DNA sequences. Sequence comparisons can be undertaken by determining the similarity of the test or query sequence with sequences in publicly available or propriety databases ("similarity analysis") or by searching for certain motifs ("intrinsic sequence analysis")(e.g. *cis* elements)(Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Similarity analysis includes database search and alignment. Examples of public databases include the DNA Database of Japan (DDBJ)(<http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/>); Genebank (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/web/Genbank/Index.html>); and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Nucleic Acid Sequence Database (EMBL) (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/embl_db.html). A number of different search algorithms have been developed, one example of which are the suite of programs referred to as BLAST programs. There are five implementations of BLAST, three designed for nucleotide sequences queries (BLASTN, BLASTX, and TBLASTX) and two designed

for protein sequence queries (BLASTP and TBLASTN) (Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).

BLASTN takes a nucleotide sequence (the query sequence) and its reverse complement and searches them against a nucleotide sequence database. BLASTN was designed for speed, not maximum sensitivity, and may not find distantly related coding sequences. BLASTX takes a nucleotide sequence, translates it in three forward reading frames and three reverse complement reading frames, and then compares the six translations against a protein sequence database. BLASTX is useful for sensitive analysis of preliminary (single-pass) sequence data and is tolerant of sequencing errors (Gish and States, *Nature Genetics*, 3: 266-272 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). BLASTN and BLASTX may be used in concert for analyzing EST data (Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).

Given a coding nucleotide sequence and the protein it encodes, it is often preferable to use the protein as the query sequence to search a database because of the greatly increased sensitivity to detect more subtle relationships. This is due to the larger alphabet of proteins (20 amino acids) compared with the alphabet of nucleic acid sequences (4 bases), where it is far easier to obtain a match by chance. In addition, with nucleotide alignments, only a match (positive score) or a mismatch (negative score) is obtained, but with proteins, the presence of conservative amino acid substitutions can be taken into account. Here, a mismatch may yield a positive score if the non-identical residue has physical/chemical properties similar to the one it replaced. Various scoring matrices are used to supply the substitution scores of all possible amino acid pairs. A general purpose scoring system is the BLOSUM62 matrix (Henikoff and Henikoff, *Proteins*, 17: 49-61 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), which is currently the default choice for BLAST programs. BLOSUM62 is tailored for alignments of moderately diverged sequences and thus may not yield the best results

under all conditions. Altschul, *J. Mol. Biol.* 36: 290-300 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, uses a combination of three matrices to cover all contingencies. This may improve sensitivity, but at the expense of slower searches. In practice, a single BLOSUM62 matrix is often used but others (PAM40 and PAM250) may be attempted when additional analysis is necessary. Low PAM matrices are directed at detecting very strong but localized sequence similarities, whereas high PAM matrices are directed at detecting long but weak alignments between very distantly related sequences.

Homologues in other organisms are available that can be used for comparative sequence analysis. Multiple alignments are performed to study similarities and differences in a group of related sequences. CLUSTAL W is a multiple sequence alignment package available that performs progressive multiple sequence alignments based on the method of Feng and Doolittle, *J. Mol. Evol.* 25: 351-360 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Each pair of sequences is aligned and the distance between each pair is calculated; from this distance matrix, a guide tree is calculated, and all of the sequences are progressively aligned based on this tree. A feature of the program is its sensitivity to the effect of gaps on the alignment; gap penalties are varied to encourage the insertion of gaps in probable loop regions instead of in the middle of structured regions. Users can specify gap penalties, choose between a number of scoring matrices, or supply their own scoring matrix for both the pairwise alignments and the multiple alignments. CLUSTAL W for UNIX and VMS systems is available at: <ftp://ebi.ac.uk>. Another program is MACAW (Schuler *et al.*, *Proteins, Struct. Func. Genet.* 9:180-190 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, for which both Macintosh and Microsoft Windows versions are available. MACAW uses a graphical interface, provides a choice of several alignment algorithms, and is available by anonymous ftp at: [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov \(directory/pub/macaw\)](ftp://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/directory/pub/macaw).

Sequence motifs are derived from multiple alignments and can be used to examine individual sequences or an entire database for subtle patterns. With motifs, it is sometimes possible to detect distant relationships that may not be demonstrable based on comparisons of primary sequences alone. Currently, the largest collection of sequence motifs in the world is PROSITE (Bairoch and Bucher, *Nucleic Acid Research*, 22: 3583-3589 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.) PROSITE may be accessed via either the ExPASy server on the World Wide Web or anonymous ftp site. Many commercial sequence analysis packages also provide search programs that use PROSITE data.

A resource for searching protein motifs is the BLOCKS E-mail server developed by S. Henikoff, *Trends Biochem Sci.*, 18:267-268 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Henikoff and Henikoff, *Nucleic Acid Research*, 19:6565-6572 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Henikoff and Henikoff, *Proteins*, 17: 49-61 (1993). BLOCKS searches a protein or nucleotide sequence against a database of protein motifs or "blocks." Blocks are defined as short, ungapped multiple alignments that represent highly conserved protein patterns. The blocks themselves are derived from entries in PROSITE as well as other sources. Either a protein or nucleotide query can be submitted to the BLOCKS server; if a nucleotide sequence is submitted, the sequence is translated in all six reading frames and motifs are sought in these conceptual translations. Once the search is completed, the server will return a ranked list of significant matches, along with an alignment of the query sequence to the matched BLOCKS entries.

Conserved protein domains can be represented by two-dimensional matrices, which measure either the frequency or probability of the occurrences of each amino acid residue and deletions or insertions in each position of the domain. This type of model, when used to search against protein databases, is sensitive and usually yields more accurate results than simple motif searches. Two popular implementations of this

approach are profile searches (such as GCG program ProfileSearch) and Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)(Krough *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 235:1501-1531 (1994); Eddy, *Current Opinion in Structural Biology* 6:361-365 (1996), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). In both cases, a large number of common protein domains have been converted into profiles, as present in the PROSITE library, or HMM models, as in the Pfam protein domain library (Sonnhammer *et al.*, *Proteins* 28:405-420 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Pfam contains more than 500 HMM models for enzymes, transcription factors, signal transduction molecules, and structural proteins. Protein databases can be queried with these profiles or HMM models, which will identify proteins containing the domain of interest. For example, HMMSW or HMMFS, two programs in a public domain package called HMMER (Sonnhammer *et al.*, *Proteins* 28:405-420 (1997)) can be used.

PROSITE and BLOCKS represent collected families of protein motifs. Thus, searching these databases entails submitting a single sequence to determine whether or not that sequence is similar to the members of an established family. Programs working in the opposite direction compare a collection of sequences with individual entries in the protein databases. An example of such a program is the Motif Search Tool, or MoST (Tatusov *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 91: 12091-12095 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.) On the basis of an aligned set of input sequences, a weight matrix is calculated by using one of four methods (selected by the user); a weight matrix is simply a representation, position by position in an alignment, of how likely a particular amino acid will appear. The calculated weight matrix is then used to search the databases. To increase sensitivity, newly found sequences are added to the original data set, the weight matrix is recalculated, and the search is performed again. This procedure continues until no new sequences are found.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides one or more substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.

The present invention further provides a substantially purified protein, peptide, or fragment thereof encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which specifically hybridizes to a complement of a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The present invention also provides a substantially purified antibody capable of specifically binding to a protein or fragment thereof encoded by a complement of a nucleic acid sequence which specifically hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.

The present invention also provides a transformed plant transformed to contain a nucleic acid molecule which comprises: (A) an exogenous promoter region which functions in plant cells to cause the production of an mRNA molecule; which is linked to (B) a structural nucleic acid molecule, wherein said structural nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein, peptide, or fragment thereof which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:1 expressed in an effective amount to produce a desirable agronomic effect; which is linked to (C) a 3' non-translated sequence that functions in plant cells to cause the termination of transcription and the addition of polyadenylated ribonucleotides to the 3' end of the mRNA sequence.

The present invention also provides a transformed plant cell containing a nucleic acid molecule whose non-transcribed strand encodes a protein or fragment thereof, wherein the transcribed strand of said nucleic acid is complementary to a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein or fragment thereof expressed in an effective amount to produce a desirable agronomic effect.

The present invention also provides bacterial, viral, microbial, and plant cells comprising the above mentioned elements (a), (b) and (c).

The present invention also provides a method of producing a plant containing one or more proteins encoded by sequences comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or complement thereof, expressed in a sufficient amount and/or fashion to produce a desirable agronomic effect.

In accomplishing the foregoing, there is provided, in accordance with one aspect of the present invention, methods of producing genetically transformed plants, comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting into the genome of a plant cell a recombinant, double-stranded DNA molecule comprising
 - (I) a promoter which functions in plant cells to cause the production of an RNA sequence,
 - (ii) a structural DNA sequence that causes the production of an RNA sequence which encodes a desired protein.
 - (iii) a 3' non-translated DNA sequence which functions in plant cells to cause the addition of polyadenylated nucleotides to the 3' end of RNA sequence; where the promoter is homologous or heterologous with respect to the coding sequence and adapted to cause sufficient expression of a protein in desired plant tissues to enhance the agronomic utility of a plant transformed with said recombinant, double-stranded DNA molecule;.
- (b) obtaining a transformed plant cell with said nucleic acid molecule that encodes one or more proteins, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is transcribed and results in expression of said protein(s); and
- (c) regenerating from the transformed plant cell a genetically transformed plant

The present invention also encompasses differentiated plants, seeds, and progeny comprising said transformed plant cells and which exhibit novel properties of agronomic significance.

The present invention also provides a method of producing a plant containing reduced levels of a protein comprising: (A) transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is transcribed and results in co-suppression of endogenous protein synthesis activity, and (B) regenerating plants and producing subsequent progeny from the said transformed plant.

The present invention also provides a method of determining an association between a polymorphism and a plant trait comprising: (A) hybridizing a nucleic acid molecule specific for a polymorphism to genetic material of a plant, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof or fragment of either; and (B) calculating the degree of association between the polymorphism and the plant trait.

The present invention also provides a method of isolating a genetic region, or nucleic acid that encodes a protein, peptide, or fragment thereof comprising: (A) incubating under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization: a marker nucleic acid molecule, preferably an EST, with a complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from a plant cell or plant tissue; (B) permitting hybridization between said marker nucleic acid molecule, preferably an EST, and said complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from said plant cell or plant tissue; and (C) isolating said complementary nucleic acid molecule.

The present invention also provides a method for determining the level or pattern of protein synthesis in a plant cell or plant tissue comprising: (A) incubating under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization: a marker nucleic acid molecule, the marker nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof or fragments of either, with a complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from a plant cell or plant tissue, wherein nucleic acid hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule, and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant cell or plant tissue permits

the detection of a particular protein synthesis; (B) permitting hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant cell or plant tissue; and (C) detecting the level or pattern of the complementary nucleic acid, wherein the detection of said complementary nucleic acid is predictive of the level or pattern of the protein synthesis.

The present invention also provides a method for determining a level or pattern of protein synthesis in a plant cell or plant tissue under evaluation for suspected protein synthesis which comprises assaying the concentration of a molecule, whose concentration is dependent upon the expression of a gene, the gene having a nucleic acid sequence which specifically hybridizes to nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 or complement thereof, the molecule being present in a plant cell or plant tissue, in comparison to the concentration of that molecule present in a plant cell or plant tissue with a known level or pattern of protein synthesis, wherein an assayed concentration of the molecule is compared to the assayed concentration of the molecule in a plant cell or plant tissue with a known level or pattern of protein synthesis.

The present invention also provides a method for determining a mutation in a plant whose presence is predictive of a mutation affecting the level or pattern of protein synthesis comprising the steps: (A) incubating under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization: a marker nucleic acid molecule, the marker nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid molecule that is linked to gene, the gene having a nucleic acid sequence which specifically hybridizes to a sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and complements thereof and which encodes for a protein, and a complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from a plant tissue or plant cell of the plant, wherein nucleic acid hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant permits the detection of a polymorphism whose presence is predictive of a mutation affecting said level or pattern of a protein synthesis in

the plant; (B) permitting hybridization between said marker nucleic acid molecule and said complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from said plant; and; (C) detecting the presence of the polymorphism, wherein the detection of the polymorphism is predictive of the mutation.

The present invention also provides a method for reducing expression of a protein in a plant cell, the method comprising: growing a transformed plant cell containing a nucleic acid molecule whose non-transcribed strand encodes a protein or fragment thereof, wherein the transcribed strand of said nucleic acid is complementary to a nucleic acid molecule that encodes the protein in said plant cell, and whereby the strand that is complementary to the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the protein reduces or depresses expression of the protein.

Thus, the present invention provides soybean ESTs for use as molecular tags to isolate genetic regions (i.e. promoters and flanking sequences), isolate genes, map genes, and determine gene function. The present invention further provides soybean ESTs for use in determining if genes are members of a particular gene family.

The present invention also provides a method of obtaining full length genes using the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention.

The present invention also provides a method of isolating promoters and flanking sequences using the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention.

The present invention also provides the nucleic acid molecules for use in marker-assisted breeding programs.

The present invention also provides a method of identifying tissues comprising hybridizing nucleic acids from the tissue with the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention

The present invention also provides a method for production of antibodies targeted against the proteins, peptides, or fragments produced by the disclosed the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention or variants or derivatives thereof.

The present invention also provides a method for the transformation and regeneration of plants comprising sequences hybridizable to the disclosed nucleic acid molecules of the present invention.

The present invention also provides a method of modifying plant protein expression by inserting in a chimeric gene sense or antisense constructs of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Agents

(a) Nucleic Acid Molecules

Agents of the present invention include nucleic acid molecules and more specifically EST nucleic acid molecules or nucleic acid fragment molecules thereof. Fragment EST nucleic acid molecules may encode significant portion(s) of, or indeed most of, the EST nucleic acid molecule. Alternatively, the fragments may comprise smaller oligonucleotides (having from about 15 to about 250 nucleotide residues, and more preferably, about 15 to about 30 nucleotide residues).

As used herein, an agent, be it a naturally occurring molecule or otherwise may be "substantially purified," if desired, such that one or more molecules that is or may be present in a naturally occurring preparation containing that molecule will have been removed or will be present at a lower concentration than that at which it would normally be found.

The agents of the present invention will preferably be "biologically active" with respect to either a structural attribute, such as the capacity of a nucleic acid to hybridize to another nucleic acid molecule, or the ability of a protein to be bound by antibody (or to compete with another molecule for such binding). Alternatively, such an attribute may be catalytic, and thus involve the capacity of the agent to mediate a chemical reaction or response.

The agents of the present invention may also be recombinant. As used herein, the term recombinant means any agent (e.g. DNA, peptide etc.), that is, or results, however indirect, from human manipulation of a nucleic acid molecule.

It is understood that the agents of the present invention may be labeled with reagents that facilitate detection of the agent (e.g. fluorescent labels (Prober, *et al.*, *Science* 238:336-340 (1987); Albarella *et al.*, EP 144914, chemical labels (Sheldon *et al.*, U.S. Patent 4,582,789; Albarella *et al.*, U.S. Patent 4,563,417, modified bases (Miyoshi *et al.*, EP 119448, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety).

It is further understood, that the present invention provides bacterial, viral, microbial, and plant cells comprising the agents of the present invention.

EST nucleic acid molecules or fragment EST nucleic acid molecules are capable of specifically hybridizing to other nucleic acid molecules under certain circumstances. As used herein, two nucleic acid molecules are said to be capable of specifically hybridizing to one another if the two molecules are capable of forming an anti-parallel, double-stranded nucleic acid structure. A nucleic acid molecule is said to be the "complement" of another nucleic acid molecule if they exhibit complete complementarity. As used herein, molecules are said to exhibit "complete complementarity" when every nucleotide of one of the molecules is complementary to a nucleotide of the other. Two molecules are said to be "minimally complementary" if they can hybridize to one another with sufficient stability to permit them to remain annealed to one another under at least conventional "low-stringency" conditions. Similarly, the molecules are said to be "complementary" if they can hybridize to one another with sufficient stability to permit them to remain annealed to one another under conventional "high-stringency" conditions. Conventional stringency conditions are described by Sambrook, *et al.*, In: *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989), and by Haymes, *et al.* In: *Nucleic Acid Hybridization, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press, Washington, DC (1985),

the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Departures from complete complementarity are therefore permissible, as long as such departures do not completely preclude the capacity of the molecules to form a double-stranded structure. Thus, in order for an EST nucleic acid molecule or fragment EST nucleic acid molecule to serve as a primer or probe it need only be sufficiently complementary in sequence to be able to form a stable double-stranded structure under the particular solvent and salt concentrations employed.

Appropriate stringency conditions which promote DNA hybridization are, for example, 6.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by a wash of 2.0 x SSC at 50°C, are known to those skilled in the art or can be found in *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1989), 6.3.1-6.3.6. For example, the salt concentration in the wash step can be selected from a low stringency of about 2.0 x SSC at 50°C to a high stringency of about 0.2 x SSC at 50°C. In addition, the temperature in the wash step can be increased from low stringency conditions at room temperature, about 22°C, to high stringency conditions at about 65°C. Both temperature and salt may be varied, or either the temperature or the salt concentration may be held constant while the other variable is changed.

In a preferred embodiment, a nucleic acid of the present invention will specifically hybridize to one or more of the nucleic acid molecules set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through ~~SEQ ID NO: 5521~~ or complements thereof under moderately stringent conditions, for example at about 2.0 x SSC and about 65°C.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, a nucleic acid of the present invention will include those nucleic acid molecules that specifically hybridize to one or more of the nucleic acid molecules set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through ~~SEQ ID NO: 5521~~ or

complements thereof under high stringency conditions. In one aspect of the present invention, the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention have a nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof. In another aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention share between 100% and 90% sequence identity with the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof. In a further aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention share between 100% and 95% sequence identity with the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof. In a more preferred aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention share between 100% and 98% sequence identity with the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof. In an even more preferred aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention share between 100% and 99% sequence identity with the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof. In a further, even more preferred aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention exhibit 100% sequence identity with nucleic acid molecules present within the cDNA library LIB3049/soy55, herein designated LIB3049 (Monsanto Company, St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America).

The degeneracy of the genetic code, which allows different nucleic acid sequences to code for the same protein or peptide, is known in the literature. (U.S. Patent No. 4,757,006, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). As used herein a nucleic acid molecule is degenerate of another nucleic acid molecule when the nucleic acid molecules encode for the same amino acid sequences but comprise different nucleotide sequences. An aspect of the present invention is that the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention include nucleic acid molecules that are degenerate of that set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. As used herein, nucleic acid molecules are said to be capable of specifically hybridizing to one another if the two molecules are capable of

forming an anti-parallel, double-stranded nucleic acid structure under conditions (e.g. salt and temperature) that permit hybridization of sequences that exhibit 90% sequence identity or greater with each other and exhibit this identity for at least a contiguous 50 base pairs of the nucleic acid molecules.

(b) **Protein and Peptide Molecules**

A class of agents comprises one or more of the protein or peptide molecules encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 or one or more of the protein or fragment thereof or peptide molecules encoded by other nucleic acid agents of the present invention. As used herein, the term "protein molecule" or "peptide molecule" includes any molecule that comprises five or more amino acids. It is well known in the art that proteins may undergo modification, including post-translational modifications, such as, but not limited to, disulfide bond formation, glycosylation, phosphorylation, or oligomerization. Thus, as used herein, the term "protein molecule" or "peptide molecule" includes any protein molecule that is modified by any biological or non-biological process. The terms "amino acid" and "amino acids" refer to all naturally occurring L-amino acids. This definition is meant to include norleucine, ornithine, homocysteine, and homoserine.

One or more of the protein or fragment of peptide molecules may be produced via chemical synthesis, or more preferably, by expressing in a suitable bacterial or eukaryotic host. Suitable methods for expression are described by Sambrook, *et al.*, (In: *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989)*), or similar texts.

A "protein fragment" is a peptide or polypeptide molecule whose amino acid sequence comprises a subset of the amino acid sequence of that protein. A protein or fragment thereof that comprises one or more additional peptide regions not derived from that protein is a "fusion" protein. Such molecules may be derivatized to contain carbohydrate or other moieties (such as keyhole limpet hemocyanin, etc.). Fusion protein

or peptide molecule of the present invention are preferably produced via recombinant means.

Another class of agents comprise protein or peptide molecules encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 or, fragments or fusions thereof in which non-essential, or not relevant, amino acid residues have been added, replaced, or deleted. An example of such a homologue is the homologue protein of all non- soybean plant species, including but not limited to alfalfa, *Arabidopsis*, barley, *Brassica*, broccoli, cabbage, citrus, cotton, garlic, oat, oilseed rape, onion, canola, flax, maize, an ornamental plant, pea, peanut, pepper, potato, rice, rye, sorghum, strawberry, sugarcane, sugarbeet, tomato, wheat, poplar, pine, fir, eukalyptus, apple, lettuce, peas, lentils, grape, banana, tea, turf grasses, etc. Particularly preferred non-soybean plants to utilize for the isolation of homologues would include alfalfa, *Arabidopsis*, barley, cotton, corn, oat, oilseed rape, rice, corn, canola, ornamentals, sugarcane, sugarbeet, tomato, potato, wheat, and turf grasses. Such a homologue can be obtained by any of a variety of methods. Most preferably, as indicated above, the disclosed sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof) will be used to define a pair of primers that may be used to isolate the homologue-encoding nucleic acid molecules from any desired species. Such molecules can be expressed to yield homologues by recombinant means.

(c) **Antibodies**

One aspect of the present invention concerns antibodies, single-chain antigen binding molecules, or other proteins that specifically bind to one or more of the protein or peptide molecules of the present invention and their homologues, fusions or fragments. Such antibodies may be used to quantitatively or qualitatively detect the protein or peptide molecules of the present invention. As used herein, an antibody or peptide is said to “specifically bind” to a protein or peptide molecule of the present invention if such binding is not competitively inhibited by the presence of non-related molecules.

Nucleic acid molecules that encode all or part of the protein of the present invention can be expressed, via recombinant means, to yield protein or peptides that can in turn be used to elicit antibodies that are capable of binding the expressed protein or peptide. Such antibodies may be used in immunoassays for that protein. Such protein-encoding molecules, or their fragments may be a "fusion" molecule (i.e., a part of a larger nucleic acid molecule) such that, upon expression, a fusion protein is produced. It is understood that any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be expressed, via recombinant means, to yield proteins or peptides encoded by these nucleic acid molecules.

The antibodies that specifically bind proteins and protein fragments of the present invention may be polyclonal or monoclonal, and may comprise intact immunoglobulins, or antigen binding portions of immunoglobulins (such as (F(ab'), F(ab')₂) fragments, or single-chain immunoglobulins producible, for example, via recombinant means). It is understood that practitioners are familiar with the standard resource materials which describe specific conditions and procedures for the construction, manipulation and isolation of antibodies (see, for example, Harlow and Lane, In *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Murine monoclonal antibodies are particularly preferred. BALB/c mice are preferred for this purpose, however, equivalent strains may also be used. The animals are preferably immunized with approximately 25 µg of purified protein (or fragment thereof) that has been emulsified a suitable adjuvant (such as TiterMax adjuvant (Vaxcel, Norcross, GA)). Immunization is preferably conducted at two intramuscular sites, one intraperitoneal site, and one subcutaneous site at the base of the tail. An additional i.v. injection of approximately 25 µg of antigen is preferably given in normal saline three weeks later. After approximately 11 days following the second injection, the mice may be bled and the blood screened for the presence of anti-protein or peptide antibodies.

Preferably, a direct binding Enzyme-Linked Immunoassay (ELISA) is employed for this purpose.

More preferably, the mouse having the highest antibody titer is given a third i.v. injection of approximately 25 µg of the same protein or fragment. The splenic leukocytes from this animal may be recovered 3 days later, and are then permitted to fuse, most preferably, using polyethylene glycol, with cells of a suitable myeloma cell line (such as, for example, the P3X63Ag8.653 myeloma cell line). Hybridoma cells are selected by culturing the cells under "HAT" (hypoxanthine-aminopterin-thymine) selection for about one week. The resulting clones may then be screened for their capacity to produce monoclonal antibodies ("mAbs), preferably by direct ELISA.

In one embodiment, anti-protein or peptide monoclonal antibodies are isolated using a fusion of a protein, protein fragment, or peptide of the present invention, or conjugate of a protein, protein fragment, or peptide of the present invention, as immunogens. Thus, for example, a group of mice can be immunized using a fusion protein emulsified in Freund's complete adjuvant (e.g. approximately 50 µg of antigen per immunization). At three week intervals, an identical amount of antigen is emulsified in Freund's incomplete adjuvant and used to immunize the animals. Ten days following the third immunization, serum samples are taken and evaluated for the presence of antibody. If antibody titers are too low, a fourth booster can be employed. Polysera capable of binding the protein or peptide can also be obtained using this method.

In a preferred procedure for obtaining monoclonal antibodies, the spleens of the above-described immunized mice are removed, disrupted, and immune splenocytes are isolated over a ficoll gradient. The isolated splenocytes are fused, using polyethylene glycol with BALB/c-derived HGPRT (hypoxanthine guanine phosphoribosyl transferase) deficient P3x63xAg8.653 plasmacytoma cells. The fused cells are plated into 96-well microtiter plates and screened for hybridoma fusion cells by their capacity to grow in

culture medium supplemented with hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine for approximately 2-3 weeks.

Hybridoma cells that arise from such incubation are preferably screened for their capacity to produce an immunoglobulin that binds to a protein of interest. An indirect ELISA may be used for this purpose. In brief, the supernatants of hybridomas are incubated in microtiter wells that contain immobilized protein. After washing, the titer of bound immunoglobulin can be determined using, for example, a goat anti-mouse antibody conjugated to horseradish peroxidase. After additional washing, the amount of immobilized enzyme is determined (for example through the use of a chromogenic substrate). Such screening is performed as quickly as possible after the identification of the hybridoma in order to ensure that a desired clone is not overgrown by non-secreting neighbors. Desirably, the fusion plates are screened several times since the rates of hybridoma growth vary. In a preferred embodiment, a different antigenic form of immunogen may be used to screen the hybridoma. Thus, for example, the splenocytes may be immunized with one immunogen, but the resulting hybridomas can be screened using a different immunogen. It is understood that any of the protein or peptide molecules of the present invention may be used to raise antibodies.

As discussed below, such antibody molecules or their fragments may be used for diagnostic purposes. Where the antibodies are intended for diagnostic purposes, it may be desirable to derivatize them, for example with a ligand group (such as biotin) or a detectable marker group (such as a fluorescent group, a radioisotope or an enzyme).

The ability to produce antibodies that bind the protein or peptide molecules of the present invention permits the identification of mimetic compounds of those molecules. A "mimetic compound" is a compound that is not that compound, or a fragment of that compound, but which nonetheless exhibits an ability to specifically bind to antibodies directed against that compound.

It is understood that any of the agents of the present invention can be substantially purified and/or be biologically active and/or recombinant.

Uses of the Agents of the Invention

The nucleic acid molecules and fragments thereof of the present invention were isolated from pods and seeds from genotype A3244 5 to 15 days after flowering. Seed libraries can enable the acquisition of, but are not limited to, genes that store food and seed regulatory elements, therefore, the ESTs of the present invention will find great use in the isolation of a variety of agronomically significant genes, including but not limited to genes that regulate protein, amino acids, sterols, oils, minerals, isoflavones, saponins, trypsin inhibitors, vitamins, tocopherols, antinutrient components, carbohydrates, starch metabolism and seed regulatory elements. Such genes are associated with plant growth, quality, yield, and could also serve as links in metabolic and catabolic pathways.

Nucleic acid molecules and fragments thereof of the present invention may be employed to obtain other nucleic acid molecules. Such molecules include the nucleic acid molecule of other plants or other organisms (*e.g.*, alfalfa, rice, potato, cotton, oat, rye, barley, maize, wheat, *Arabidopsis*, *Brassica*, etc.) including the nucleic acid molecules that encode, in whole or in part, protein homologues of other plant species or other organisms, and sequences of genetic elements such as promoters and transcriptional regulatory elements. Such molecules can be readily obtained by using the above-described nucleic acid molecules or fragments thereof to screen cDNA or genomic libraries obtained from such plant species. Methods for forming such libraries are well known in the art. Such homologue molecules may differ in their nucleotide sequences from those found in SEQ ID NO:1 because complete complementarity is not needed for stable hybridization. The nucleic acid molecules of the present invention therefore also include molecules that, although capable of specifically hybridizing with the nucleic acid molecules may lack "complete complementarity."

Any of a variety of methods may be used to obtain one or more of the above-described nucleic acid molecules (Zamechik *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 83:4143-4146 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Goodchild *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 85:5507-5511 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Wickstrom *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 85:1028-1032 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Holt, *et al.*, *Molec. Cell. Biol.* 8:963-973 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Gerwitz, *et al.*, *Science* 242:1303-1306 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Anfossi, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:3379-3383 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Becker, *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 8:3685-3691 (1989); the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Automated nucleic acid synthesizers may be employed for this purpose. In lieu of such synthesis, the disclosed nucleic acid molecules may be used to define a pair of primers that can be used with the polymerase chain reaction (Mullis, *et al.*, *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.* 51:263-273 (1986); Erlich *et al.*, EP 50,424; EP 84,796, EP 258,017, EP 237,362; Mullis, EP 201,184; Mullis *et al.*, US 4,683,202; Erlich, US 4,582,788; and Saiki, R. *et al.*, US 4,683,194, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety) to amplify and obtain any desired nucleic acid molecule or fragment.

Promoter sequence(s) and other genetic elements including but not limited to transcriptional regulatory elements associated with one or more of the disclosed nucleic acid sequences can also be obtained using the disclosed nucleic acid sequences provided herein. In one embodiment, such sequences are obtained by incubating EST nucleic acid molecules or preferably fragments thereof with members of genomic libraries (*e.g. Zea mays* and *soybean*) and recovering clones that hybridize to the EST nucleic acid molecule or fragment thereof. In a second embodiment, methods of "chromosome walking," or inverse PCR may be used to obtain such sequences (Frohman, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad.*

Sci. (U.S.A.) 85:8998-9002 (1988); Ohara, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86: 5673-5677 (1989); Pang *et al.*, *Biotechniques*, 22(6): 1046-1048 (1977); Huang *et al.*, *Methods Mol. Biol.* 69: 89-96 (1977); Hartl *et al.*, *Methods Mol. Biol.* 58: 293-301 (1996), all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety). In one embodiment, the disclosed ESTs are used to identify cDNAs whose analogous genes contain promoters with desirable expression patterns. The ESTs isolated from the library of the present invention are used to isolate promoters of tissue-enhanced, tissue-specific, developmentally- or environmentally-regulated expression profiles. Isolation and functional analysis of the 5' flanking promoter sequences of these genes from genomic libraries, for example, using genomic screening methods and PCR techniques would result in the isolation of useful promoters and transcriptional regulatory elements. These methods are known to those of skill in the art and have been described (See for example Birren *et al.*, *Genome Analysis: Analyzing DNA*, 1, (1997), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Promoters obtained utilizing the ESTs of the present invention could also be modified to affect their control characteristics. Examples of such modifications would include but are not limited to enhancer sequences as reported by Kay *et al.*, *Science* 236:1299 (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. Such genetic elements could be used to enhance gene expression of new and existing traits for crop improvements.

The nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be used to isolate promoters of tissue enhanced, tissue specific, cell-specific, cell -type, developmentally or environmentally regulated expression profiles. Isolation and functional analysis of the 5' flanking promoter sequences of these genes from genomic libraries, for example, using genomic screening methods and PCR techniques would result in the isolation of useful promoters and transcriptional regulatory elements. These methods are known to those of skill in the art and have been described (See, for example, Birren *et. al.*, *Genome*

Analysis: Analyzing DNA, 1, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.). Promoters obtained utilizing the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention could also be modified to affect their control characteristics. Examples of such modifications would include but are not limited to enhancer sequences as reported by Kay, *et al Science* 236:1299 (1987), herein incorporated reference in its entirety. Such genetic elements could be used to enhance gene expression of new and existing traits for crop improvements.

In an aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic molecules of the present invention are used to determine whether a plant (preferably soybean) has a mutation affecting the level (i.e., the concentration of mRNA in a sample, etc.) or pattern (i.e., the kinetics of expression, rate of decomposition, stability profile, etc.) of the expression encoded in part or whole by one or more of the nucleic acid molecule of the present invention (collectively, the "Expression Response" of a cell or tissue). As used herein, the Expression Response manifested by a cell or tissue is said to be "altered" if it differs from the Expression Response of cells or tissues of plants not exhibiting the phenotype. To determine whether a Expression Response is altered, the Expression Response manifested by the cell or tissue of the plant exhibiting the phenotype is compared with that of a similar cell or tissue sample of a plant not exhibiting the phenotype. As will be appreciated, it is not necessary to re-determine the Expression Response of the cell or tissue sample of plants not exhibiting the phenotype each time such a comparison is made; rather, the Expression Response of a particular plant may be compared with previously obtained values of normal plants. As used herein, the phenotype of the organism is any of one or more characteristics of an organism (e.g. disease resistance, pest tolerance, environmental tolerance, male sterility, yield, quality improvements, etc.). A change in genotype or phenotype may be transient or permanent. Also as used herein, a tissue sample is any sample that comprises more than one cell. In a

preferred aspect, a tissue sample comprises cells that share a common characteristic (e.g. derived from leaf, root, or pollen etc).

In one sub-aspect, such an analysis is conducted by determining the presence and/or identity of polymorphism(s) by one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention and more specifically, one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecule or fragment thereof which are associated with phenotype, or a predisposition to phenotype.

Any of a variety of molecules can be used to identify such polymorphism(s). In one embodiment, one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules (or a sub-fragment thereof) may be employed as a marker nucleic acid molecule to identify such polymorphism(s). Alternatively, such polymorphisms can be detected through the use of a marker nucleic acid molecule or a marker protein that is genetically linked to (i.e., a polynucleotide that co-segregates with) such polymorphism(s).

In an alternative embodiment, such polymorphisms can be detected through the use of a marker nucleic acid molecule that is physically linked to such polymorphism(s). For this purpose, marker nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide located within 1 mb of the polymorphism(s), and more preferably within 100 kb of the polymorphism(s), and most preferably within 10 kb of the polymorphism(s) can be employed.

The genomes of animals and plants naturally undergo spontaneous mutation in the course of their continuing evolution (Gusella, *Ann. Rev. Biochem.* 55:831-854 (1986)). A "polymorphism" is a variation or difference in the sequence of the gene or its flanking regions that arises in some of the members of a species. The variant sequence and the "original" sequence co-exist in the species' population. In some instances, such co-existence is in stable or quasi-stable equilibrium.

A polymorphism is thus said to be "allelic," in that, due to the existence of the polymorphism, some members of a species may have the original sequence (i.e., the original "allele") whereas other members may have the variant sequence (i.e., the variant

"allele"). In the simplest case, only one variant sequence may exist, and the polymorphism is thus said to be di-allelic. In other cases, the species' population may contain multiple alleles, and the polymorphism is termed tri-allelic, etc. A single gene may have multiple different unrelated polymorphisms. For example, it may have a di-allelic polymorphism at one site, and a multi-allelic polymorphism at another site.

The variation that defines the polymorphism may range from a single nucleotide variation to the insertion or deletion of extended regions within a gene. In some cases, the DNA sequence variations are in regions of the genome that are characterized by short tandem repeats (STRs) that include tandem di- or tri-nucleotide repeated motifs of nucleotides. Polymorphisms characterized by such tandem repeats are referred to as "variable number tandem repeat" ("VNTR") polymorphisms. VNTRs have been used in identity analysis (Weber, U.S. Patent 5,075,217; Armour, *et al.*, *FEBS Lett.* 307:113-115 (1992); Jones, *et al.*, *Eur. J. Haematol.* 39:144-147 (1987); Horn, *et al.*, PCT Application WO91/14003; Jeffreys, European Patent Application 370,719; Jeffreys, U.S. Patent 5,699,082; Jeffreys, *et al.*, *Amer. J. Hum. Genet.* 39:11-24 (1986); Jeffreys, *et al.*, *Nature* 316:76-79 (1985); Gray, *et al.*, *Proc. R. Acad. Soc. Lond.* 243:241-253 (1991); Moore, *et al.*, *Genomics* 10:654-660 (1991); Jeffreys, *et al.*, *Anim. Genet.* 18:1-15 (1987); Hillel, *et al.*, *Anim. Genet.* 20:145-155 (1989); Hillel, *et al.*, *Genet.* 124:783-789 (1990), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

The detection of polymorphic sites in a sample of DNA may be facilitated through the use of nucleic acid amplification methods. Such methods specifically increase the concentration of polynucleotides that span the polymorphic site, or include that site and sequences located either distal or proximal to it. Such amplified molecules can be readily detected by gel electrophoresis or other means.

The most preferred method of achieving such amplification employs the polymerase chain reaction ("PCR") (Mullis, *et al.*, *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.* 51:263-273 (1986); Erlich, *et al.*, European Patent Appln. 50,424; European Patent

Appln. 84,796, European Patent Application 258,017, European Patent Appln. 237,362; Mullis, European Patent Appln. 201,184; Mullis, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,683,202; Erlich., U.S. Patent No. 4,582,788; and Saiki, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,683,194, all of which are herein incorporated by reference), using primer pairs that are capable of hybridizing to the proximal sequences that define a polymorphism in its double-stranded form.

In lieu of PCR, alternative methods, such as the "Ligase Chain Reaction" ("LCR") may be used (Barany, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88:189-193 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. LCR uses two pairs of oligonucleotide probes to exponentially amplify a specific target. The sequences of each pair of oligonucleotides is selected to permit the pair to hybridize to abutting sequences of the same strand of the target. Such hybridization forms a substrate for a template-dependent ligase. As with PCR, the resulting products thus serve as a template in subsequent cycles and an exponential amplification of the desired sequence is obtained.

LCR can be performed with oligonucleotides having the proximal and distal sequences of the same strand of a polymorphic site. In one embodiment, either oligonucleotide will be designed to include the actual polymorphic site of the polymorphism. In such an embodiment, the reaction conditions are selected such that the oligonucleotides can be ligated together only if the target molecule either contains or lacks the specific nucleotide that is complementary to the polymorphic site present on the oligonucleotide. Alternatively, the oligonucleotides may be selected such that they do not include the polymorphic site (see, Segev, PCT Application WO 90/01069, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

The "Oligonucleotide Ligation Assay" ("OLA") may alternatively be employed (Landegren, *et al.*, *Science* 241:1077-1080 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). The OLA protocol uses two oligonucleotides which are designed to be capable of hybridizing to abutting sequences of a single strand of a target.

OLA, like LCR, is particularly suited for the detection of point mutations. Unlike LCR, however, OLA results in "linear" rather than exponential amplification of the target sequence.

Nickerson, *et al.* have described a nucleic acid detection assay that combines attributes of PCR and OLA (Nickerson, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87:8923-8927 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In this method, PCR is used to achieve the exponential amplification of target DNA, which is then detected using OLA. In addition to requiring multiple, and separate, processing steps, one problem associated with such combinations is that they inherit all of the problems associated with PCR and OLA.

Schemes based on ligation of two (or more) oligonucleotides in the presence of nucleic acid having the sequence of the resulting "di-oligonucleotide", thereby amplifying the di-oligonucleotide, are also known (Wu, *et al.*, *Genomics* 4:560 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), and may be readily adapted to the purposes of the present invention.

Other known nucleic acid amplification procedures, such as allele-specific oligomers, branched DNA technology, transcription-based amplification systems, or isothermal amplification methods may also be used to amplify and analyze such polymorphisms (Malek, *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,130,238; Davey, *et al.*, European Patent Application 329,822; Schuster *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,169,766; Miller, *et al.*, PCT Application WO 89/06700; Kwoh, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:1173-1177 (1989); Gingeras, *et al.*, PCT Application WO 88/10315; Walker, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 89:392-396 (1992), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

The identification of a polymorphism can be determined in a variety of ways. By correlating the presence or absence of it in an plant with the presence or absence of a phenotype, it is possible to predict the phenotype of that plant. If a polymorphism creates

or destroys a restriction endonuclease cleavage site, or if it results in the loss or insertion of DNA (e.g., a VNTR polymorphism), it will alter the size or profile of the DNA fragments that are generated by digestion with that restriction endonuclease. As such, individuals that possess a variant sequence can be distinguished from those having the original sequence by restriction fragment analysis. Polymorphisms that can be identified in this manner are termed "restriction fragment length polymorphisms" ("RFLPs"). RFLPs have been widely used in human and plant genetic analyses (Glassberg, UK Patent Application 2135774; Skolnick, *et al.*, *Cytogen. Cell Genet.* 32:58-67 (1982); Botstein, *et al.*, *Ann. J. Hum. Genet.* 32:314-331 (1980); Fischer, *et al.* (PCT Application WO90/13668); Uhlen, PCT Application WO90/11369).

Polymorphisms can also be identified by Single Strand Conformation Polymorphism (SSCP) analysis. The SSCP technique is a method capable of identifying most sequence variations in a single strand of DNA, typically between 150 and 250 nucleotides in length (Elles, *Methods in Molecular Medicine: Molecular Diagnosis of Genetic Diseases*, Humana Press (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); Orita *et al.*, *Genomics* 5: 874-879 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Under denaturing conditions a single strand of DNA will adopt a conformation that is uniquely dependent on its sequence conformation. This conformation usually will be different, even if only a single base is changed. Most conformations have been reported to alter the physical configuration or size sufficiently to be detectable by electrophoresis. A number of protocols have been described for SSCP including, but not limited to Lee *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* 205: 289-293 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Suzuki *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* 192: 82-84 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Lo *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Research* 20: 1005-1009 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Sarkar *et al.*, *Genomics* 13: 441-443 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acids of the present

invention, may be utilized as markers or probes to detect polymorphisms by SSCP analysis.

Polymorphisms may also be found using a DNA fingerprinting technique called amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP), which is based on the selective PCR amplification of restriction fragments from a total digest of genomic DNA to profile that DNA. Vos, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 23:4407-4414 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. This method allows for the specific co-amplification of high numbers of restriction fragments, which can be visualized by PCR without knowledge of the nucleic acid sequence.

AFLP employs basically three steps. Initially, a sample of genomic DNA is cut with restriction enzymes and oligonucleotide adapters are ligated to the restriction fragments of the DNA. The restriction fragments are then amplified using PCR by using the adapter and restriction sequence as target sites for primer annealing. The selective amplification is achieved by the use of primers that extend into the restriction fragments, amplifying only those fragments in which the primer extensions match the nucleotide flanking the restriction sites. These amplified fragments are then visualized on a denaturing polyacrylamide gel.

AFLP analysis has been performed on *Salix* (Beismann, *et al.*, *Mol. Ecol.* 6:989-993 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); *Acinetobacter* (Janssen, *et al.*, *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol* 47:1179-1187 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), *Aeromonas popoffi* (Huys, *et al.*, *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 47:1165-1171 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), rice (McCouch, *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 35:89-99 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); Nandi, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 255:1-8 (1997); Cho, *et al.*, *Genome* 39:373-378 (1996), herein incorporated by reference), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)(Simons, *et al.*, *Genomics* 44:61-70 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Waugh, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 255:311-321 (1997), the

entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Qi, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 254:330-336 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Becker, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 249:65-73 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), potato (Van der Voort, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 255:438-447 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Meksem, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 249:74-81 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), *Phytophthora infestans* (Van der Lee, *et al.*, *Fungal Genet. Biol.* 21:278-291 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), *Bacillus anthracis* (Keim, *et al.*, *J. Bacteriol.* 179:818-824 (1997)), *Astragalus cremnophylax* (Travis, *et al.*, *Mol. Ecol.* 5:735-745 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), *Arabidopsis* (Cnops, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 253:32-41 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), *Escherichia coli* (Lin, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 24:3649-3650 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), *Aeromonas* (Huys, *et al.*, *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 46:572-580 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), nematode (Folkertsma, *et al.*, *Mol. Plant Microbe Interact.* 9:47-54 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), tomato (Thomas, *et al.*, *Plant J.* 8:785-794 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), and human (Latorra, *et al.*, *PCR Methods Appl.* 3:351-358 (1994)). AFLP analysis has also been used for fingerprinting mRNA (Money, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 24:2616-2617 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Bachem, *et al.*, *Plant J.* 9:745-753 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acids of the present invention, may be utilized as markers or probes to detect polymorphisms by AFLP analysis for fingerprinting mRNA.

Polymorphisms may also be found using random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) (Williams *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 18: 6531-6535 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and cleaveable amplified polymorphic sequences (CAPS) (Lyamichev *et al.*, *Science* 260: 778-783 (1993), the entirety of which is herein

incorporated by reference). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acids of the present invention, may be utilized as markers or probes to detect polymorphisms by RAPD or CAPS analysis.

Polymorphisms are useful, through linkage analysis, to define the genetic distances or physical distances between polymorphic traits. A physical map or ordered array of genomic DNA fragments in the desired region containing the gene may be used to characterize and isolate genes corresponding to desirable traits. For this purpose, yeast artificial chromosomes (YACs), bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs), and cosmids are appropriate vectors for cloning large segments of DNA molecules. Although fewer clones are needed to make a contig for a specific genomic region by using YACs (Agyare *et al.*, *Genome Res.* 7: 1-9 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; James *et al.*, *Genomics* 32: 425-430 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), chimerism in the inserted DNA fragment can arise. Cosmids are convenient for handling smaller-size DNA molecules and may be used for transformation in developing transgenic plants. BACs also carry DNA fragments and are less prone to chimerism.

Through genetic mapping, a fine scale linkage map can be developed using DNA markers, and, then, a genomic DNA library of large-sized fragments can be screened with molecular markers linked to the desired trait. Molecular markers are advantageous for agronomic traits that are otherwise difficult to tag, such as resistance to pathogens, insects and nematodes, tolerance to abiotic stresses, quality parameters and quantitative traits. The essential requirements for marker-assisted selection in a plant breeding program are: (1) the marker(s) should co-segregate or be closely linked with the desired trait; (2) an efficient means of screening large populations for the molecular marker(s) should be available; and (3) the screening technique should have high reproducibility across laboratories, be economical to use and be user-friendly. Molecular marker studies using near-isogenic lines (NILs) (Martin *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88: 2336-2340

(1991), herein incorporate by reference; Young *et al.*, *Genetics* 120: 579-585. (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, bulked segregant analysis (Michelmore *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A)* 88: 9828-9832 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) or recombinant inbred lines (Mohan *et al.*, *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 87: 782-788 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) have been used to map genes in different plant species (Coe and Neuffer, In: *Genetic maps: locus maps of complex genomes*, ed. S.J. O'Brien, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 157-189 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be used as molecular markers.

In accordance with this aspect of the present invention, a sample nucleic acid is obtained from plants cells or tissues. Any source of nucleic acid may be used. Preferably, the nucleic acid is genomic DNA. The nucleic acid is subjected to restriction endonuclease digestion. For example, one or more EST nucleic acid molecule or fragment thereof can be used as a probe in accordance with the above-described polymorphic methods. The polymorphism obtained in this approach can then be cloned to identify the mutation at the coding region which alters the protein's structure or regulatory region of the gene which affects its expression level.

In one aspect of the present invention, an evaluation can be conducted to determine whether a particular mRNA molecule is present. One or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention are utilized to detect the presence or quantity of the mRNA species. Such molecules are then incubated with cell or tissue extracts of a plant under conditions sufficient to permit nucleic acid hybridization. The detection of double-stranded probe-mRNA hybrid molecules is indicative of the presence of the mRNA; the amount of such hybrid formed is proportional to the amount of mRNA. Thus, such probes may be used to ascertain the level and extent of the mRNA production in a plant's

cells or tissues. Such nucleic acid hybridization may be conducted under quantitative conditions (thereby providing a numerical value of the amount of the mRNA present). Alternatively, the assay may be conducted as a qualitative assay that indicates either that the mRNA is present, or that its level exceeds a user set, predefined value.

A principle of *in situ* hybridization is that a labeled, single-stranded nucleic acid probe will hybridize to a complementary strand of cellular DNA or RNA and, under the appropriate conditions, these molecules will form a stable hybrid. When nucleic acid hybridization is combined with histological techniques, specific DNA or RNA sequences can be identified within a single cell. An advantage of *in situ* hybridization over more conventional techniques for the detection of nucleic acids is that it allows an investigator to determine the precise spatial population (Angerer *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.* 101: 477-484 (1984), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Angerer *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.* 112: 157-166 (1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Dixon *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 10: 1317-1324 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). *In situ* hybridization may be used to measure the steady-state level of RNA accumulation. It is a sensitive technique and RNA sequences present in as few as 5-10 copies per cell can be detected (Hardin *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 202: 417-431 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). A number of protocols have been devised for *in situ* hybridization, each with tissue preparation, hybridization, and washing conditions (Meyerowitz, *Plant Mol. Biol. Rep.* 5: 242-250 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Cox and Goldberg, In: *Plant Molecular Biology: A Practical Approach* (ed. C.H. Shaw), pp. 1-35. IRL Press, Oxford (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Raikhel *et al.*, *In situ RNA hybridization in plant tissues*. In *Plant Molecular Biology Manual*, vol. B9: 1-32. Kluwer Academic Publisher, Dordrecht, Belgium (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

In situ hybridization also allows for the localization of proteins within a tissue or cell (Wilkinson, *In Situ Hybridization*, Oxford University Press, Oxford (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Langdale, *In Situ Hybridization* 165-179 In: *The Maize Handbook*, eds. Freeling and Walbot, Springer-Verlag, New York (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). It is understood that one or more of the molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention or one or more of the antibodies of the present invention may be utilized to detect the level or pattern of a cytokinin pathway enzyme or fragment thereof by *in situ* hybridization.

Fluorescent *in situ* hybridization also enables the localization of a particular DNA sequence along a chromosome which is useful, among other uses, for gene mapping, following chromosomes in hybrid lines or detecting chromosomes with translocations, transversions or deletions. *In situ* hybridization has been used to identify chromosomes in several plant species (Griffor *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 17: 101-109 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Gustafson *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87: 1899-1902 (1990), herein incorporated by reference; Mukai and Gill, *Genome* 34: 448-452. (1991); Schwarzacher and Heslop-Harrison, *Genome* 34: 317-323 (1991); Wang *et al.*, *Jpn. J. Genet.* 66: 313-316 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Parra and Windle, *Nature Genetics*, 5: 17-21 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). It is understood that the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be used as probes or markers to localize sequences along a chromosome

It is also understood that one or more of the molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention or one or more of the antibodies of the present invention may be utilized to detect the expression level or pattern of a protein or mRNA thereof by *in situ* hybridization.

Another method to localize the expression of a molecule is tissue printing. Tissue printing provides a way to screen, at the same time on the same membrane many tissue sections from different plants or different developmental stages. Tissue-printing procedures utilize films designed to immobilize proteins and nucleic acids. In essence, a freshly cut section of an organ is pressed gently onto nitrocellulose paper, nylon membrane or polyvinylidene difluoride membrane. Such membranes are commercially available (e.g. Millipore, Bedford, Massachusetts). The contents of the cut cell transfer onto the membrane, and the molecules are immobilized to the membrane. The immobilized molecules form a latent print that can be visualized with appropriate probes. When a plant tissue print is made on nitrocellulose paper, the cell walls leave a physical print that makes the anatomy visible without further treatment (Varner and Taylor, *Plant Physiol.* 91: 31-33 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Tissue printing on substrate films is described by Daoust, *Exp. Cell Res.* 12: 203-211 (1957), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, who detected amylase, protease, ribonuclease, and deoxyribonuclease in animal tissues using starch, gelatin, and agar films. These techniques can be applied to plant tissues (Yomo and Taylor, *Planta* 112:35-43 (1973); Harris and Chrispeels, *Plant Physiol.* 56: 292-299 (1975). Advances in membrane technology have increased the range of applications of Daoust's tissue-printing techniques allowing (Cassab and Varner, *J. Cell. Biol.* 105: 2581-2588 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; the histochemical localization of various plant enzymes and deoxyribonuclease on nitrocellulose paper and nylon (Spruce *et al.*, *Phytochemistry*, 26: 2901-2903 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Barres *et al.* *Neuron* 5: 527-544 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Reid and Pont-Lezica, *Tissue Printing: Tools for the Study of Anatomy, Histochemistry, and Gene Expression*, Academic Press, New York, New York (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Reid *et al.*

Plant Physiol. 93: 160-165 (1990), herein incorporate by reference; Ye *et al.* *Plant J.* 1: 175-183 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

It is understood that one or more of the molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention or one or more of the antibodies of the present invention may be utilized to detect the presence or quantity of a protein by tissue printing.

Further, it is also understood that any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be used as marker nucleic acids and or probes in connection with methods that require probes or marker nucleic acids. As used herein, a probe is an agent that is utilized to determine an attribute or feature (e.g. presence or absence, location, correlation, etc.) or a molecule, cell, tissue or plant. As used herein, a marker nucleic acid is a nucleic acid molecule that is utilized to determine an attribute or feature (e.g., presence or absence, location, correlation, etc.) or a molecule, cell, tissue or plant.

A microarray-based method for high-throughput monitoring of plant gene expression may be utilized to measure gene-specific hybridization targets. This 'chip'-based approach involves using microarrays of nucleic acid molecules as gene-specific hybridization targets to quantitatively measure expression of the corresponding plant genes (Schena *et al.*, *Science* 270: 467-470 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Shalon, Ph.D. Thesis. Stanford University (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Every nucleotide in a large sequence can be queried at the same time. Hybridization can be used to efficiently analyze large amounts of nucleotide sequence.

Several microarray methods have been described. One method compares the sequences to be analyzed by hybridization to a set of oligonucleotides representing all possible subsequences (Bains and Smith, *J. Theor. Biol.* 135: 303 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). A second method hybridizes the sample to an array of oligonucleotide probes. An array consisting of oligonucleotides complementary

to subsequences of a target sequence can be used to determine the identity of a target sequence, measure its amount, and detect differences between the target and a reference sequence. Nucleic acid molecules microarrays may also be screened with protein molecules or fragments thereof to determine nucleic acid molecules that specifically bind protein molecules or fragments thereof.

The microarray approach may be used with polypeptide targets (U.S. Patent No. 5,445,934; U.S. Patent No. 5,143,854; U.S. Patent No. 5,079,600; U.S. Patent No. 4,923,901, all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Essentially, polypeptides are synthesized on a substrate (microarray) and these polypeptides can be screened with either protein molecules or fragments thereof or nucleic acid molecules in order to screen for either protein molecules or fragments thereof or nucleic acid molecules that specifically bind the target polypeptides. Implementation of these techniques rely on recently developed combinatorial technologies to generate any ordered array of a large number of oligonucleotide probes (Fodor *et al.*, *Science* 251:767-773 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

It is understood that one or more of the molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the nucleic acid molecules or protein molecules or fragments thereof of the present invention may be utilized in a microarray based method.

Site-directed mutagenesis may be utilized to modify nucleic acid sequences, particularly as it is a technique that allows one or more of the amino acids encoded by a nucleic acid molecule to be altered (e.g. a threonine to be replaced by a methionine). Three basic methods for site-directed mutagenesis are often employed. These are cassette mutagenesis (Wells *et al.*, *Gene* 34:315-23 (1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), primer extension (Gilliam *et al.*, *Gene* 12:129-137 (1980), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); Zoller and Smith, *Methods Enzymol.* 100:468-500 (1983), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; and Dalbadie-McFarland *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 79:6409-6413 (1982), the

entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and methods based upon PCR (Scharf *et al.*, *Science* 233:1076-1078 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Higuchi *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 16:7351-7367 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Site-directed mutagenesis approaches are also described in European Patent 0 385 962, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, European Patent 0 359 472, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, and PCT Patent Application WO 93/07278, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Site-directed mutagenesis strategies have been applied to plants for both *in vitro* as well as *in vivo* site-directed mutagenesis (Lanz *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 266:9971-6 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Kovgan and Zhdanov, *Biotehnologiya* 5:148-154, No. 207160n, Chemical Abstracts 110:225 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Ge *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:4037-4041 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, Zhu *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:18494-18498 (1996), Chu *et al.*, *Biochemistry* 33:6150-6157 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, Small *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 11:1291-1296 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, Cho *et al.*, *Mol. Biotechnol.* 8:13-16 (1997), Kita *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:26529-26535 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, Jin *et al.*, *Mol. Microbiol.* 7:555-562 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, Hatfield and Vierstra, *J. Biol. Chem.* 267:14799-14803 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, Zhao *et al.*, *Biochemistry* 31:5093-5099 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may either be modified by site-directed mutagenesis or used as, for example, nucleic acid molecules that are used to target other nucleic acid molecules for modification. It is understood that mutants with more than one altered nucleotide can be constructed using techniques that practitioners

skilled in the art are familiar with such as isolating restriction fragments and ligating such fragments into an expression vector (*see, for example, Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1989)).

Sequence-specific DNA-binding proteins play a role in the regulation of transcription. The isolation of recombinant cDNAs encoding these proteins facilitates the biochemical analysis of their structural and functional properties. Genes encoding such DNA-binding proteins have been isolated using classical genetics (Vollbrecht *et al.*, *Nature* 350: 241-243 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and molecular biochemical approaches, including the screening of recombinant cDNA libraries with antibodies (Landschulz *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 2: 786-800 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) or DNA probes (Bodner *et al.*, *Cell* 55: 505-518 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In addition, an *in situ* screening procedure has been used and has facilitated the isolation of sequence-specific DNA-binding proteins from various plant species (Gilmartin *et al.*, *Plant Cell* 4: 839-849 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Schindler *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 11: 1261-1273 (1992) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). An *in situ* screening protocol does not require the purification of the protein of interest (Vinson *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 2: 801-806 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Singh *et al.*, *Cell* 52: 415-423 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Steps may be employed to characterize DNA-protein interactions. The first is to identify promoter fragments that interact with DNA-binding proteins, to titrate binding activity, to determine the specificity of binding, and to determine whether a given DNA-binding activity can interact with related DNA sequences (Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd edition. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989). Electrophoretic mobility-shift assay is a widely used assay. The assay provides a simple, rapid, and sensitive method for detecting DNA-

binding proteins based on the observation that the mobility of a DNA fragment through a nondenaturing, low-ionic strength polyacrylamide gel is retarded upon association with a DNA-binding protein (Fried and Crother, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 9: 6505-6525 (1981), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). When one or more specific binding activities have been identified, the exact sequence of the DNA bound by the protein may be determined. Several procedures for characterizing protein/DNA-binding sites are used, including methylation and ethylation interference assays (Maxam and Gilbert, *Methods Enzymol.* 65: 499-560 (1980), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Wissman and Hillen, *Methods Enzymol.* 208: 365-379 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and footprinting techniques employing DNase I (Galas and Schmitz, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 5: 3157-3170 (1978), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), 1,10-phenanthroline-copper ion methods (Sigman *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.* 208: 365-379 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) or hydroxyl radical methods (Dixon *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.* 208: 380-413 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be utilized to identify a protein or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a nucleic acid molecule of the present invention. It is also understood that one or more of the protein molecules or fragments thereof of the present invention may be utilized to identify a nucleic acid molecule that specifically binds to it.

The two-hybrid system is based on the fact that many cellular functions are carried out by proteins that interact (physically) with one another. Two-hybrid systems have been used to probe the function of new proteins (Chien *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88: 9578-9582 (1991) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Durfee *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 7: 555-569 (1993) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Choi *et al.*, *Cell* 78: 499-512 (1994), the entirety of which is herein

incorporated by reference; Kranz *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 8: 313-327 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Interaction mating techniques have facilitated a number of two-hybrid studies of protein-protein interaction. Interaction mating has been used to examine interactions between small sets of tens of proteins (Finley and Brent, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 91: 12098-12984 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), larger sets of hundreds of proteins, (Bendixen *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 22: 1778-1779 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and to comprehensively map proteins encoded by a small genome (Bartel *et al.*, *Nature Genetics* 12: 72-77 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). This technique utilizes proteins fused to the DNA-binding domain and proteins fused to the activation domain. They are expressed in two different haploid yeast strains of opposite mating type, and the strains are mated to determine if the two proteins interact. Mating occurs when haploid yeast strains come into contact and result in the fusion of the two haploids into a diploid yeast strain. An interaction can be determined by the activation of a two-hybrid reporter gene in the diploid strain. The primary advantage of this technique is that it reduces the number of yeast transformations needed to test individual interactions. It is understood that the protein-protein interactions of protein or fragments thereof of the present invention may be investigated using the two-hybrid system and that any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention that encode such proteins or fragments thereof may be used to transform yeast in the two-hybrid system.

Synechocystis 6803 is a photosynthetic Cyanobacterium capable of oxygenic photosynthesis as well as heterotrophic growth in the absence of light. The entire genome has been sequenced, and it is reported to have a circular genome size of 3.57 Mbp containing 3168 potential open reading frames. Open reading frames (ORFs) were identified based upon their homology to other reported ORFs and by using ORF identification computer programs. Sixteen

hundred potential ORFs were assigned based on their homology to previously identified ORFs. Of these 1600 ORFs, 145 were identical to reported ORFs (Kaneko *et al.*, *DNA Research* 3:109-36 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Several prokaryote promoters have been used in *Synechocystis* to express heterologous genes including the tac, lac, and lambda phage promoters (Bryant (ed.), *The Molecular Biology of Cyanobacteria*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, (1994); Ferino and Chauvat, *Gene* 84:257-266 (1989), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Several bacterial origins of replication such as RSF1010 and ACYC are reported to replicate in *Synechocystis* (Mermet-Bouvier and Chauvat, *Current Microbiology* 28:145-148 (1994); Kuhlemeier *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 184:249-254 (1981), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Synechocystis has been used to study gene regulation by gene replacement through homologous recombination or by gene disruption using antibiotic resistance markers (Pakrasi *et al.*, *EMBO* 7:325-332 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). In such gene regulation studies, double reciprocal homologous regions of the host genome flanking the gene of interest recombine to stably integrate the gene of interest into the genome. The gene of interest can be expressed once that gene has been stably integrated into the genome. Biochemical analysis can be performed to study the effect of the replaced or deleted gene.

It is understood that the agents of the present invention may be employed in a *Synechocystis* system.

Exogenous genetic material may be transferred into a plant cell and the plant cell regenerated into a whole, fertile or sterile plant. Exogenous genetic material is any genetic material, whether naturally occurring or otherwise, from any source that is capable of

being inserted into any organism. Such genetic material may be transferred into either monocotyledons and dicotyledons including but not limited to the crops, *Zea mays* and soybean (See specifically, Chistou, *Particle Bombardment for Genetic Engineering of Plants*, pp 63-69 (*zea mays*), pp50-60 (soybean), Biotechnology Intelligence Unit. Academic Press, San Diego, California (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference and generally Chistou, *Particle Bombardment for Genetic Engineering of Plants*, Biotechnology Intelligence Unit. Academic Press, San Diego, California (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Transfer of a nucleic acid that encodes for a protein can result in overexpression of that protein in a transformed cell or transgenic plant. One or more of the proteins or fragments thereof encoded by nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be overexpressed in a transformed cell or transformed plant. Such overexpression may be the result of transient or stable transfer of the exogenous material.

Exogenous genetic material may be transferred into a plant cell by the use of a DNA vector or construct designed for such a purpose. Design of such a vector is generally within the skill of the art (See, *Plant Molecular Biology: A Laboratory Manual* eds. Clark, Springer, New York (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

A construct or vector may include a plant promoter to express the protein or protein fragment of choice. A number of promoters which are active in plant cells have been described in the literature. These include the nopaline synthase (NOS) promoter (Ebert *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 84:5745-5749 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), the octopine synthase (OCS) promoter (which are carried on tumor-inducing plasmids of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*), the caulimovirus promoters such as the cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) 19S promoter (Lawton *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 9:315-324 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and the CAMV 35S promoter (Odell *et al.*, *Nature* 313:810-812 (1985), the

entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), the figwort mosaic virus 35S-promoter, the light-inducible promoter from the small subunit of ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase (ssRUBISCO), the Adh promoter (Walker *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 84:6624-6628 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), the sucrose synthase promoter (Yang *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87:4144-4148 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), the R gene complex promoter (Chandler *et al.*, *The Plant Cell* 1:1175-1183 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), and the chlorophyll a/b binding protein gene promoter, etc. These promoters have been used to create DNA constructs which have been expressed in plants; *see, e.g.*, PCT publication WO 84/02913, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Promoters which are known or are found to cause transcription of DNA in plant cells can be used in the present invention. Such promoters may be obtained from a variety of sources such as plants and plant viruses. It is preferred that the particular promoter selected should be capable of causing sufficient expression to result in the production of an effective amount of the cytokinin pathway enzyme to cause the desired phenotype. In addition to promoters which are known to cause transcription of DNA in plant cells, other promoters may be identified for use in the current invention by screening a plant cDNA library for genes which are selectively or preferably expressed in the target tissues or cells.

For the purpose of expression in source tissues of the plant, such as the leaf, seed, root or stem, it is preferred that the promoters utilized in the present invention have relatively high expression in these specific tissues. For this purpose, one may choose from a number of promoters for genes with tissue- or cell-specific or -enhanced expression. Examples of such promoters reported in the literature include the chloroplast glutamine synthetase GS2 promoter from pea (Edwards *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87:3459-3463 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the

chloroplast fructose-1,6-biphosphatase (FBPase) promoter from wheat (Lloyd *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 225:209-216 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the nuclear photosynthetic ST-LS1 promoter from potato (Stockhaus *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 8:2445-2451 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL) promoter and the chalcone synthase (CHS) promoter from *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Also reported to be active in photosynthetically active tissues are the ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase (RbcS) promoter from eastern larch (*Larix laricina*), the promoter for the *cab* gene, *cab6*, from pine (Yamamoto *et al.*, *Plant Cell Physiol.* 35:773-778 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the *Cab-1* gene from wheat (Fejes *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 15:921-932 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the *CAB-1* gene from spinach (Lubberstedt *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 104:997-1006 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the *cab1R* gene from rice (Luan *et al.*, *Plant Cell.* 4:971-981 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), the pyruvate, orthophosphate dikinase (PPDK) promoter from *Zea mays* (Matsuoka *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 90: 9586-9590 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the tobacco *Lhcb1*2* gene (Cerdan *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 33: 245-255. (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the *Arabidopsis thaliana* *SUC2* sucrose-H⁺ symporter promoter (Truernit *et al.*, *Planta.* 196: 564-570 (1995), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and the promoter for the thylacoid membrane proteins from spinach (*psaD*, *psaF*, *psaE*, *PC*, *FNR*, *atpC*, *atpD*, *cab*, *rbcS*). Other promoters for the chlorophyll *a/b*-binding proteins may also be utilized in the present invention, such as the promoters for *LhcB* gene and *PsbP* gene from white mustard (*Sinapis alba*; Kretsch *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 28: 219-229 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

For the purpose of expression in sink tissues of the plant, such as the tuber of the potato plant, the fruit of tomato, or the seed of *Zea mays*, wheat, rice, and barley, it is

preferred that the promoters utilized in the present invention have relatively high expression in these specific tissues. A number of promoters for genes with tuber-specific or -enhanced expression are known, including the class I patatin promoter (Bevan *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 8: 1899-1906 (1986); Jefferson *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 14: 995-1006 (1990), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the potato tuber ADPGPP genes, both the large and small subunits, the sucrose synthase promoter (Salanoubat and Belliard, *Gene.* 60: 47-56 (1987), Salanoubat and Belliard, *Gene.* 84: 181-185 (1989), both of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety), the promoter for the major tuber proteins including the 22 kd protein complexes and proteinase inhibitors (Hannapel, *Plant Physiol.* 101: 703-704 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the granule bound starch synthase gene (GBSS) (Visser *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 17: 691-699 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and other class I and II patatins promoters (Koster-Topfer *et al.*, *Mol Gen Genet.* 219: 390-396 (1989); Mignery *et al.*, *Gene.* 62: 27-44 (1988), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Other promoters can also be used to express a fructose 1,6 bisphosphate aldolase gene in specific tissues, such as seeds or fruits. The promoter for β -conglycinin (Chen *et al.*, *Dev. Genet.* 10: 112-122 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) or other seed-specific promoters such as the napin and phaseolin promoters, can be used. The zeins are a group of storage proteins found in *Zea mays* endosperm. Genomic clones for zein genes have been isolated (Pedersen *et al.*, *Cell* 29: 1015-1026 (1982), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and the promoters from these clones, including the 15 kD, 16 kD, 19 kD, 22 kD, 27 kD, and gamma genes, could also be used. Other promoters known to function, for example, in *Zea mays*, include the promoters for the following genes: *waxy*, *Brittle*, *Shrunken 2*, Branching enzymes I and II, starch synthases, debranching enzymes, oleosins, glutelins, and sucrose synthases. A particularly preferred promoter for *Zea mays* endosperm expression is the promoter for the glutelin gene from

rice, more particularly the Osgt-1 promoter (Zheng *et al.*, *Mol. Cell Biol.* 13: 5829-5842 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Examples of promoters suitable for expression in wheat include those promoters for the ADPglucose pyrophosphorylase (ADPGPP) subunits, the granule bound and other starch synthases, the branching and debranching enzymes, the embryogenesis-abundant proteins, the gliadins, and the glutenins. Examples of such promoters in rice include those promoters for the ADPGPP subunits, the granule bound and other starch synthases, the branching enzymes, the debranching enzymes, sucrose synthases, and the glutelins. A particularly preferred promoter is the promoter for rice glutelin, Osgt-1. Examples of such promoters for barley include those for the ADPGPP subunits, the granule bound and other starch synthases, the branching enzymes, the debranching enzymes, sucrose synthases, the hordeins, the embryo globulins, and the aleurone specific proteins.

Root specific promoters may also be used. An example of such a promoter is the promoter for the acid chitinase gene (Samac *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 25: 587-596 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Expression in root tissue could also be accomplished by utilizing the root specific subdomains of the CaMV35S promoter that have been identified (Lam *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:7890-7894 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Other root cell specific promoters include those reported by Conkling *et al.* (Conkling *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 93:1203-1211 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Additional promoters that may be utilized are described, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,378,619, 5,391,725, 5,428,147, 5,447,858, 5,608,144, 5,608,144, 5,614,399, 5,633,441, 5,633,435, and 4,633,436, all of which are herein incorporated in their entirety. In addition, a tissue specific enhancer may be used (Fromm *et al.*, *The Plant Cell* 1:977-984 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Constructs or vectors may also include, with the coding region of interest, a nucleic acid sequence that acts, in whole or in part, to terminate transcription of that

region. For example, such sequences have been isolated including the Tr7 3' sequence and the nos 3' sequence (Ingelbrecht *et al.*, *The Plant Cell* 1:671-680 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Bevan *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 11:369-385 (1983), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), or the like.

A vector or construct may also include regulatory elements. Examples of such include the Adh intron 1 (Callis *et al.*, *Genes and Develop.* 1:1183-1200 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), the sucrose synthase intron (Vasil *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 91:1575-1579 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and the TMV omega element (Gallie *et al.*, *The Plant Cell* 1:301-311 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). These and other regulatory elements may be included when appropriate.

A vector or construct may also include a selectable marker. Selectable markers may also be used to select for plants or plant cells that contain the exogenous genetic material. Examples of such include, but are not limited to, a neo gene (Potrykus *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 199:183-188 (1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) which codes for kanamycin resistance and can be selected for using kanamycin, G418, etc.; a bar gene which codes for bialaphos resistance; a mutant EPSP synthase gene (Hinchee *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 6:915-922 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) which encodes glyphosate resistance; a nitrilase gene which confers resistance to bromoxynil (Stalker *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 263:6310-6314 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); a mutant acetolactate synthase gene (ALS) which confers imidazolinone or sulphonylurea resistance (European Patent Application 154,204 (Sept. 11, 1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); and a methotrexate resistant DHFR gene (Thillet *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 263:12500-12508 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

A vector or construct may also include a transit peptide. Incorporation of a suitable chloroplast transit peptide may also be employed (European Patent Application

Publication Number 0218571, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Translational enhancers may also be incorporated as part of the vector DNA. DNA constructs could contain one or more 5' non-translated leader sequences which may serve to enhance expression of the gene products from the resulting mRNA transcripts. Such sequences may be derived from the promoter selected to express the gene or can be specifically modified to increase translation of the mRNA. Such regions may also be obtained from viral RNAs, from suitable eukaryotic genes, or from a synthetic gene sequence. For a review of optimizing expression of transgenes, see Koziel *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 32:393-405 (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

A vector or construct may also include a screenable marker. Screenable markers may be used to monitor expression. Exemplary screenable markers include a β -glucuronidase or uidA gene (GUS) which encodes an enzyme for which various chromogenic substrates are known (Jefferson, *Plant Mol. Biol. Rep.* 5: 387-405 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Jefferson *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 6: 3901-3907 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); an R-locus gene, which encodes a product that regulates the production of anthocyanin pigments (red color) in plant tissues ((Dellaporta *et al.*, *Stadler Symposium* 11:263-282 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); a β -lactamase gene (Sutcliffe *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 75: 3737-3741 (1978), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), a gene which encodes an enzyme for which various chromogenic substrates are known (e.g., PADAC, a chromogenic cephalosporin); a luciferase gene (Ow *et al.*, *Science* 234: 856-859 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) a xyle gene (Zukowsky *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 80:1101-1105 (1983), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) which encodes a catechol dioxygenase that can convert chromogenic catechols; an α -amylase gene (Ikata *et al.*, *Bio/Technol.* 8:241-242 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); a tyrosinase gene (Katz *et al.*, *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 129:2703-

2714 (1983), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) which encodes an enzyme capable of oxidizing tyrosine to DOPA and dopaquinone which in turn condenses to melanin; an α -galactosidase, which will turn a chromogenic α -galactose substrate.

Included within the terms "selectable or screenable marker genes" are also genes which encode a scriptable marker whose secretion can be detected as a means of identifying or selecting for transformed cells. Examples include markers which encode a secretable antigen that can be identified by antibody interaction, or even secretable enzymes which can be detected catalytically. Secretable proteins fall into a number of classes, including small, diffusible proteins detectable, *e.g.*, by ELISA, small active enzymes detectable in extracellular solution (*e.g.*, α -amylase, β -lactamase, phosphinothricin transferase), or proteins which are inserted or trapped in the cell wall (such as proteins which include a leader sequence such as that found in the expression unit of extension or tobacco PR-S). Other possible selectable and/or screenable marker genes will be apparent to those of skill in the art.

Methods and compositions for transforming a bacteria and other microorganisms are known in the art (see for example Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

There are many methods for introducing transforming nucleic acid molecules into plant cells. Suitable methods are believed to include virtually any method by which nucleic acid molecules may be introduced into a cell, such as by *Agrobacterium* infection or direct delivery of nucleic acid molecules such as, for example, by PEG-mediated transformation, by electroporation or by acceleration of DNA coated particles, etc. (Pottkyus, *Ann. Rev. Plant Physiol. Plant Mol. Biol.* 42:205-225 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Vasil, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 25: 925-937 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. For example, electroporation has

been used to transform *Zea mays* protoplasts (Fromm *et al.*, *Nature* 312:791-793 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Other vector systems suitable for introducing transforming DNA into a host plant cell includes but is not limited to binary artificial chromosome (BIBAC) vectors (Hamilton *et al.*, *Gene* 200:107-116, (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, and transfection with RNA viral vectors (Della-Cioppa *et al.*, *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* (1996), 792 (Engineering Plants for Commercial Products and Applications), 57-61, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Technology for introduction of DNA into cells is well known to those of skill in the art. Four general methods for delivering a gene into cells have been described: (1) chemical methods (Graham and van der Eb, *Virology*, 54:536-539 (1973), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); (2) physical methods such as microinjection (Capecchi, *Cell* 22:479-488 (1980), electroporation (Wong and Neumann, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 107:584-587 (1982); Fromm *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 82:5824-5828 (1985); U. S. Patent No. 5,384,253; and the gene gun (Johnston and Tang, *Methods Cell Biol.* 43:353-365 (1994), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); (3) viral vectors (Clapp, *Clin. Perinatol.*, 20:155-168 (1993); Lu *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.*, 178:2089-2096 (1993); Eglitis and Anderson, *Biotechniques*, 6:608-614 (1988), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); and (4) receptor-mediated mechanisms (Curiel *et al.*, *Hum. Gen. Ther.*, 3:147-154 (1992); Wagner *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 89:6099-6103 (1992), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference).

Acceleration methods that may be used include, for example, microprojectile bombardment and the like. One example of a method for delivering transforming nucleic acid molecules to plant cells is microprojectile bombardment. This method has been reviewed by Yang and Christou, eds., *Particle Bombardment Technology for Gene Transfer*, Oxford Press, Oxford, England (1994), the entirety of which is herein

incorporated by reference). Non-biological particles (microprojectiles) that may be coated with nucleic acids and delivered into cells by a propelling force. Exemplary particles include those comprised of tungsten, gold, platinum, and the like.

A particular advantage of microprojectile bombardment, in addition to it being an effective means of reproducibly, and stably transforming monocotyledons, is that neither the isolation of protoplasts (Cristou *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 87:671-674 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) nor the susceptibility of *Agrobacterium* infection is required. An illustrative embodiment of a method for delivering DNA into maize cells by acceleration is a biolistics γ -particle delivery system, which can be used to propel particles coated with DNA through a screen, such as a stainless steel or Nytex screen, onto a filter surface covered with corn cells cultured in suspension. Gordon-Kamm *et al.*, describes the basic procedure for coating tungsten particles with DNA (Gordon-Kamm *et al.*, *Plant Cell* 2: 603-618 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). The screen disperses the tungsten nucleic acid particles so that they are not delivered to the recipient cells in large aggregates. A particle delivery system suitable for use with the present invention is the helium acceleration PDS-1000/He gun which is available from Bio-Rad Laboratories (Bio-Rad, Hercules, California)(Sanford *et al.*, *Technique* 3:3-16 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

For the bombardment, cells in suspension may be concentrated on filters. Filters containing the cells to be bombarded are positioned at an appropriate distance below the microprojectile stopping plate. If desired, one or more screens are also positioned between the gun and the cells to be bombarded.

Alternatively, immature embryos or other target cells may be arranged on solid culture medium. The cells to be bombarded are positioned at an appropriate distance below the macroprojectile stopping plate. If desired, one or more screens are also positioned between the acceleration device and the cells to be bombarded. Through the

use of techniques set forth herein one may obtain up to 1000 or more foci of cells transiently expressing a marker gene. The number of cells in a focus which express the exogenous gene product 48 hours post-bombardment often range from one to ten and average one to three.

In bombardment transformation, one may optimize the prebombardment culturing conditions and the bombardment parameters to yield the maximum numbers of stable transformants. Both the physical and biological parameters for bombardment are important in this technology. Physical factors are those that involve manipulating the DNA/microprojectile precipitate or those that affect the flight and velocity of either the macro- or microprojectiles. Biological factors include all steps involved in manipulation of cells before and immediately after bombardment, the osmotic adjustment of target cells to help alleviate the trauma associated with bombardment, and also the nature of the transforming DNA, such as linearized DNA or intact supercoiled plasmids. It is believed that pre-bombardment manipulations are especially important for successful transformation of immature embryos.

In another alternative embodiment, plastids can be stably transformed. Methods disclosed for plastid transformation in higher plants include the particle gun delivery of DNA containing a selectable marker and targeting of the DNA to the plastid genome through homologous recombination (Svab *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87:8526-8530 (1990); Svab and Maliga, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 90:913-917 (1993); Staub and Maliga, *EMBO J.* 12:601-606 (1993); U.S. Patents 5,451,513 and 5,545,818, all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Accordingly, it is contemplated that one may wish to adjust various aspects of the bombardment parameters in small scale studies to fully optimize the conditions. One may particularly wish to adjust physical parameters such as gap distance, flight distance, tissue distance, and

helium pressure. One may also minimize the trauma reduction factors by modifying conditions which influence the physiological state of the recipient cells and which may therefore influence transformation and integration efficiencies. For example, the osmotic state, tissue hydration and the subculture stage or cell cycle of the recipient cells may be adjusted for optimum transformation. The execution of other routine adjustments will be known to those of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure.

Agrobacterium-mediated transfer is a widely applicable system for introducing genes into plant cells because the DNA can be introduced into whole plant tissues, thereby bypassing the need for regeneration of an intact plant from a protoplast. The use of *Agrobacterium*-mediated plant integrating vectors to introduce DNA into plant cells is well known in the art. See, for example the methods described (Fraley *et al.*, *Biotechnology* 3:629-635 (1985); Rogers *et al.*, *Meth. In Enzymol.*, 153:253-277 (1987), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety. Further, the integration of the Ti-DNA is a relatively precise process resulting in few rearrangements. The region of DNA to be transferred is defined by the border sequences, and intervening DNA is usually inserted into the plant genome as described (Spielmann *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 205:34 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Modern *Agrobacterium* transformation vectors are capable of replication in *E. coli* as well as *Agrobacterium*, allowing for convenient manipulations as described (Klee *et al.*, *In: Plant DNA Infectious Agents*, T. Hohn and J. Schell, eds., Springer-Verlag, New York, pp. 179-203 (1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Moreover, recent technological advances in vectors for *Agrobacterium*-mediated gene transfer have improved the arrangement of genes and restriction sites in the vectors to facilitate construction of vectors capable of expressing various polypeptide coding genes. The vectors described have convenient multi-linker regions flanked by a promoter and a polyadenylation site for direct expression of inserted polypeptide coding genes and are suitable for present purposes (Rogers *et al.*, *Meth. In Enzymol.*, 153:253-277 (1987), the

entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In addition, *Agrobacterium* containing both armed and disarmed Ti genes can be used for the transformations. In those plant strains where *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation is efficient, it is the method of choice because of the facile and defined nature of the gene transfer.

A transgenic plant formed using *Agrobacterium* transformation methods typically contains a single gene on one chromosome. Such transgenic plants can be referred to as being heterozygous for the added gene. More preferred is a transgenic plant that is homozygous for the added structural gene; *i.e.*, a transgenic plant that contains two added genes, one gene at the same locus on each chromosome of a chromosome pair. A homozygous transgenic plant can be obtained by sexually mating (selfing) an independent segregant transgenic plant that contains a single added gene, germinating some of the seed produced and analyzing the resulting plants produced for the gene of interest.

It is also to be understood that two different transgenic plants can also be mated to produce offspring that contain two independently segregating added, exogenous genes. Selfing of appropriate progeny can produce plants that are homozygous for both added, exogenous genes that encode a polypeptide of interest. Back-crossing to a parental plant and out-crossing with a non-transgenic plant are also contemplated, as is vegetative propagation.

Transformation of plant protoplasts can be achieved using methods based on calcium phosphate precipitation, polyethylene glycol treatment, electroporation, and combinations of these treatments. See for example (Potrykus *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 205:193-200 (1986); Lorz *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 199:178, (1985); Fromm *et al.*, *Nature*, 319:791,(1986); Uchimiya *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.*:204:204, (1986); Callis *et al.*, *Genes and Development*, 1183,(1987); Marcotte *et al.*, *Nature*, 335:454, (1988), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference).

Application of these systems to different plant strains depends upon the ability to regenerate that particular plant strain from protoplasts. Illustrative methods for the

regeneration of cereals from protoplasts are described (Fujimura *et al.*, *Plant Tissue Culture Letters*, 2:74,(1985); Toriyama *et al.*, *Theor Appl. Genet.* 205:34. (1986); Yamada *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.*, 4:85, (1986); Abdullah *et al.*, *Biotechnology*, 4:1087, (1986), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference).

To transform plant strains that cannot be successfully regenerated from protoplasts, other ways to introduce DNA into intact cells or tissues can be utilized. For example, regeneration of cereals from immature embryos or explants can be effected as described (Vasil, *Biotechnology*, 6:397,(1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In addition, "particle gun" or high-velocity microprojectile technology can be utilized (Vasil *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 10:667, (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Using the latter technology, DNA is carried through the cell wall and into the cytoplasm on the surface of small metal particles as described (Klein *et al.*, *Nature*, 328:70, (1987); Klein *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 85:8502-8505, (1988); McCabe *et al.*, *Biotechnology*, 6:923, (1988), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference). The metal particles penetrate through several layers of cells and thus allow the transformation of cells within tissue explants.

Other methods of cell transformation can also be used and include but are not limited to introduction of DNA into plants by direct DNA transfer into pollen (Zhou *et al.*, *Methods in Enzymology*, 101:433, (1983); Hess *et al.*, *Intern Rev. Cytol.*, 107:367, (1987); Luo *et al.*, *Plant Mol Biol. Reporter*, 6:165, (1988), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference), by direct injection of DNA into reproductive organs of a plant (Pena *et al.*, *Nature*, 325:274, (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), or by direct injection of DNA into the cells of immature embryos followed by the rehydration of dessicated embryos (Neuhaus *et al.*, *Theor. Appl. Genet.*, 75:30, (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

The regeneration, development, and cultivation of plants from single plant protoplast transformants or from various transformed explants is well known in the art (Weissbach and Weissbach, *In: Methods for Plant Molecular Biology*, (Eds.), Academic Press, Inc. San Diego, CA, (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). This regeneration and growth process typically includes the steps of selection of transformed cells, culturing those individualized cells through the usual stages of embryonic development through the rooted plantlet stage. Transgenic embryos and seeds are similarly regenerated. The resulting transgenic rooted shoots are thereafter planted in an appropriate plant growth medium such as soil.

The development or regeneration of plants containing the foreign, exogenous gene that encodes a protein of interest is well known in the art. Preferably, the regenerated plants are self-pollinated to provide homozygous transgenic plants, as discussed before. Otherwise, pollen obtained from the regenerated plants is crossed to seed-grown plants of agronomically important lines. Conversely, pollen from plants of these important lines is used to pollinate regenerated plants. A transgenic plant of the present invention containing a desired polypeptide is cultivated using methods well known to one skilled in the art.

There are a variety of methods for the regeneration of plants from plant tissue. The particular method of regeneration will depend on the starting plant tissue and the particular plant species to be regenerated.

Methods for transforming dicots, primarily by use of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, and obtaining transgenic plants have been published for cotton (U. S. Patent No. 5,004,863, U.S. Patent No. 5,159,135, U.S. Patent No. 5,518,908, all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); soybean (U. S. Patent No. 5,569,834, U. S. Patent No. 5,416,011, McCabe *et al.*, *Biotechnology* 6:923, (1988), Christou *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.*, 87:671-674 (1988), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); *Brassica* (U. S. Patent No. 5,463,174, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by

reference); peanut (Cheng *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.* 15: 653-657 (1996), McKently *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.* 14:699-703 (1995), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); papaya (Yang *et al.*, (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); pea (Grant *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.* 15:254-258, (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Transformation of monocotyledons using electroporation, particle bombardment, and *Agrobacterium* have also been reported. Transformation and plant regeneration have been achieved in asparagus (Bytebier *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 84:5345, (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); barley (Wan and Lemaux, *Plant Physiol* 104:37, (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); maize (Rhodes *et al.*, *Science* 240: 204, (1988), Gordon-Kamm *et al.*, *Plant Cell*, 2:603, (1990), Fromm *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 8:833, (1990), Koziel *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 11:194, (1993), Armstrong *et al.*, *Crop Science* 35:550-557, (1995), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); oat (Somers *et al.*, *Bio/Technology*, 10:1589, (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); orchardgrass (Horn *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.* 7:469, (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); rice (Toriyama *et al.*, *Theor Appl. Genet.* 205:34, (1986); Park *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.*, 32: 1135-1148, (1996); Abedinia *et al.*, *Aust. J. Plant Physiol.* 24:133-141, (1997); Zhang and Wu, *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 76:835, (1988); Zhang *et al.* *Plant Cell Rep.* 7:379, (1988); Battraw and Hall, *Plant Sci.* 86:191-202, (1992); Christou *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 9:957, (1991), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); sugarcane (Bower and Birch, *Plant J.* 2:409, (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); tall fescue (Wang *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 10:691, (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), and wheat (Vasil *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 10:667, (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; U. S. Patent No. 5,631,152, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Assays for gene expression based on the transient expression of cloned nucleic acid constructs have been developed by introducing the nucleic acid molecules into plant cells by polyethylene glycol treatment, electroporation, or particle bombardment (Marcotte, *et al.*, *Nature*, 335: 454-457 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Marcotte, *et al.*, *Plant Cell*, 1: 523-532 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; McCarty, *et al.*, *Cell* 66: 895-905 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Hattori, *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 6: 609-618 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Goff, *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 9: 2517-2522 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Transient expression systems may be used to functionally dissect gene constructs (*See generally*, Mailga *et al.*, *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1995)).

Any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be introduced into a plant cell in a permanent or transient manner in combination with other genetic elements such as vectors, promoters enhancers etc. Further any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be introduced into a plant cell in a manner that allows for over expression of the protein or fragment thereof encoded by the nucleic acid molecule.

Cosuppression is the reduction in expression levels, usually at the level of RNA, of a particular endogenous gene or gene family by the expression of a homologous sense construct that is capable of transcribing mRNA of the same strandedness as the transcript of the endogenous gene (Napoli *et al.*, *Plant Cell* 2: 279-289 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; van der Krol *et al.*, *Plant Cell* 2: 291-299 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Cosuppression may result from stable transformation with a single copy nucleic acid molecule that is homologous to a nucleic acid sequence found with the cell (Prolls and Meyer, *Plant J.* 2:465-475 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by

reference) or with multiple copies of a nucleic acid molecule that is homologous to a nucleic acid sequence found with the cell (Mittlesten *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 244: 325-330 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Genes, even though different, linked to homologous promoters may result in the cosuppression of the linked genes (Vaucheret, *C.R. Acad. Sci. III* 316: 1471-1483 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

This technique has, for example been applied to generate white flowers from red petunia and tomatoes that do not ripen on the vine. Up to 50% of petunia transformants that contained a sense copy of the chalcone synthase (CHS) gene produced white flowers or floral sectors; this was as a result of the post-transcriptional loss of mRNA encoding CHS (Flavell, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 91:3490-3496 (1994)), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Cosuppression may require the coordinate transcription of the transgene and the endogenous gene, and can be reset by a developmental control mechanism (Jorgensen, *Trends Biotechnol.* 8:340344 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Meins and Kunz, In: *Gene Inactivation and Homologous Recombination in Plants* (Paszkowski, J., ed.), pp. 335-348. Kluwer Academic, Netherlands (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

It is understood that the nucleic acids of the present invention comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or complement thereof, may be introduced into a plant cell and transcribed using an appropriate promoter with such transcription resulting in the co-suppression of an endogenous protein.

Antisense approaches are a way of preventing or reducing gene function by targeting the genetic material (Mol *et al.*, *FEBS Lett.* 268: 427-430 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). The objective of the antisense approach is to use a sequence complementary to the target gene to block its expression and create a mutant cell line or organism in which the level of a single chosen protein is selectively

reduced or abolished. Antisense techniques have several advantages over other 'reverse genetic' approaches. The site of inactivation and its developmental effect can be manipulated by the choice of promoter for antisense genes or by the timing of external application or microinjection. Antisense can manipulate its specificity by selecting either unique regions of the target gene or regions where it shares homology to other related genes (Hiatt *et al.*, *In Genetic Engineering*, Setlow (ed.), Vol. 11, New York: Plenum 49-63 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

The principle of regulation by antisense RNA is that RNA that is complementary to the target mRNA is introduced into cells, resulting in specific RNA:RNA duplexes being formed by base pairing between the antisense substrate and the target mRNA (Green *et al.*, *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 55: 569-597 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Under one embodiment, the process involves the introduction and expression of an antisense gene sequence. Such a sequence is one in which part or all of the normal gene sequences are placed under a promoter in inverted orientation so that the 'wrong' or complementary strand is transcribed into a noncoding antisense RNA that hybridizes with the target mRNA and interferes with its expression (Takayama and Inouye, *Crit. Rev. Biochem. Mol. Biol.* 25: 155-184 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). An antisense vector is constructed by standard procedures and introduced into cells by transformation, transfection, electroporation, microinjection, or by infection, etc. The type of transformation and choice of vector will determine whether expression is transient or stable. The promoter used for the antisense gene may influence the level, timing, tissue, specificity, or inducibility of the antisense inhibition.

It is understood that protein synthesis activity in a plant cell may be reduced or depressed by growing a transformed plant cell containing a nucleic acid molecule whose non-transcribed strand encodes a protein synthesis enzyme or fragment thereof.

Antibodies have been expressed in plants (Hiatt *et al.*, *Nature* 342:76-78 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Conrad and Fielder, *Plant Mol.*

Biol. 26: 1023-1030 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Cytoplasmic expression of a scFv (single-chain Fv antibodies) has been reported to delay infection by artichoke mottled crinkle virus. Transgenic plants that express antibodies directed against endogenous proteins may exhibit a physiological effect (Philips *et al.*, *EMBO J. 16*: 4489-4496 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Marion-Poll, *Trends in Plant Science 2*: 447-448 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). For example, expressed anti-abscisic antibodies reportedly result in a general perturbation of seed development (Philips *et al.*, *EMBO J. 16*: 4489-4496 (1997)).

Antibodies that are catalytic may also be expressed in plants (abzymes). The principle behind abzymes is that since antibodies may be raised against many molecules, this recognition ability can be directed toward generating antibodies that bind transition states to force a chemical reaction forward (Persidas, *Nature Biotechnology 15*:1313-1315 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Baca *et al.*, *Ann. Rev. Biophys. Biomol. Struct. 26*:461-493 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). The catalytic abilities of abzymes may be enhanced by site directed mutagenesis. Examples of abzymes are, for example, set forth in U.S. Patent No: 5,658,753; U.S. Patent No. 5,632,990; U.S. Patent No. 5,631,137; U.S. Patent 5,602,015; U.S. Patent No. 5,559,538; U.S. Patent No. 5,576,174; U.S. Patent No. 5,500,358; U.S. Patent 5,318,897; U.S. Patent No. 5,298,409; U.S. Patent No. 5,258,289 and U.S. Patent No. 5,194,585, all of which are herein incorporated in their entirety.

It is understood that any of the antibodies of the present invention may be expressed in plants and that such expression can result in a physiological effect. It is also understood that any of the expressed antibodies may be catalytic.

In addition to the above discussed procedures, practitioners are familiar with the standard resource materials which describe specific conditions and procedures for the construction, manipulation and isolation of macromolecules (e.g., DNA molecules,

plasmids, etc.), generation of recombinant organisms and the screening and isolating of clones, (see for example, Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1989); Mailga *et al.*, *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Birren *et al.*, *Genome Analysis: Analyzing DNA*, 1, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Having now generally described the invention, the same will be more readily understood through reference to the following examples which are provided by way of illustration, and are not intended to be limiting of the present invention, unless specified.

Example 1

The cDNA library (LIBRARY 3049/soy55) was prepared from young seeds that are collected from young pods (5 to 15 days after flowering). A total of 100mg of seeds are harvested and immediately frozen in a 1.5 ml polypropylene microcentrifuge tube. The tissue is then transferred to a -80°C freezer for storage. The tissue is moved to Creve Coeur on dry-ice where it is again stored at -80°C. Total RNA is prepared from 100mg of tissue and is used directly to generate a library using the Clontech SMART PCR cDNA library construction kit or similar system. The cDNA generated by this method is ligated to *Sal* I adaptors from the pSPORT cDNA system from Life Technologies for ligational insertion into the pSPORT vector. Clones are selected and the plasmid DNA is isolated using a commercially available kit. The template plasmid DNA clones are used for subsequent sequencing. ESTs in the range of 150-450+ bases are generated.

Example 2

The cDNA library of the present invention, LIB3049, is plated on LB agar containing the appropriate antibiotics for selection and incubated at 37°C for a sufficient

time to allow the growth of individual colonies. Single colonies are individually placed in each well of 96-well microtiter plates containing LB liquid including the selective antibiotics. The plates are incubated overnight at approximately 37°C with gentle shaking to promote growth of the cultures. The plasmid DNA is isolated from each clone using a commercially available kit such as Qiaprep plasmid isolation kits, using the conditions recommended by the manufacturer (Qiagen Inc., Santa Clarita, CA). A variety of plasmid isolation kits are commercially available.

The template plasmid DNA clones are used for subsequent sequencing. For sequencing the cDNA library LIB3049, a commercially available sequencing kit, such as the ABI PRISM dRhodamine Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit with AmpliTaq® DNA Polymerase, FS, is used under the conditions recommended by the manufacturer (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). The ESTs of the present invention are generated by sequencing initiated from the 5' end of each cDNA clone.

A number of sequencing techniques are known in the art, including fluorescence-based sequencing methodologies. These methods have the detection, automation and instrumentation capability necessary for the analysis of large volumes of sequence data. Currently, the 377 DNA Sequencer (Perkin-Elmer Corp., Applied Biosystems Div., Foster City, CA) allows the most rapid electrophoresis and data collection. With these types of automated systems, fluorescent dye-labeled sequence reaction products are detected and data entered directly into the computer, producing a chromatogram that is subsequently viewed, stored, and analyzed using the corresponding software programs. These methods are known to those of skill in the art and have been described and reviewed (Birren *et al.*, *Genome Analysis: Analyzing DNA*,¹ Cold Spring Harbor, New York, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).